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REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

MR. JAMES'S NEW ROMANCE.

Heidelberg: a Romance. By G. P. R. James, Esq.
3 vols. Smith, Elder, and Co.

Common consent has long accepted our author as the deservedly of the most popular authors, either in history or fiction mostly founded on history, of the age to which he belongs. The fidelity of his historical research and illustration, the individuality of his portraiture, and the accuracy and beauty of his descriptions of nature, the verisimilitude of his sketches, the pure sentiment and the unimpaired morality of his writings, constitute the prominent characteristics which have raised him to this proud distinction. To some of his productions, the story and the persons, romance and unreal incidents he has imagined to work it out, may impart a greater interest upon the whole than the reader feels in the perusal of others; but in all we find the sterling merits we have indicated, more or less inherent, and from not one of them can we rise without entertainment and improvement.

Having briefly said so much, and having so often paid our honest tribute to the genius of Mr. James, we will not offer criticism or remark on his new work, *Heidelberg*. Suffice it to observe that, like his preceding publications, it draws all the leading characters so distinctly that we seem to know them intimately as if we had lived with them; and that it treats of an extremely interesting period, and a historical episode in which the English nation was deeply concerned, though the scene is Bohemia and the contest German. Yet as the fair and unfortunate Elizabeth, the daughter of our James I., by her marriage with the Prince Palatine, became really the second personage in his struggle for the Bohemian throne,* it is personally connected with British politics, on which it had considerable influence; and by transplanting to the heart of Heidelberg and the siege of Prague several fictitious countrymen and countrywomen of the queen, to fight her battles, to grace her revels, perplex her councils, to adventure, to serve or intrigue, the author has added a charm of his own to his illustration of a striking page of history. To give an adequate idea of such a composition by quotations is out of the question, and we would at any rate leave the fates of the heroine to be developed by the perusal of the volumes in which their pre-eminent virtues shine. From among the more general features, and such as we can extract without injury to the tale, we have selected the following examples. At Heidelberg two English strangers encounter a haughty young German noble, with whom they sit down at supper in the same reception-room of the inn of the Englishmen, Algernon, is conversing with the German in French, and observes:

"The court of the elector palatine is, I believe, second to few in Europe." "What is that, Algernon? what is that?" cried the other Englishman, who seemed to have comprehended part of what was said; "it is treason to friendship to talk a language in my presence which is unintelligible to my poor ears." The other gentleman explained in French; and with a smile, slightly sarcastic, his friend turned to their companion, exclaiming, "Is this court so magnificent, then, indeed? We are

ignorant of this part of Europe, sir, having been long in the far south, sporting amongst princes and lazaroni at Naples, jesting with priests, cardinals, and popes at Rome, discussing pictures, statues, and points of religion with painters, philosophers, and atheists at Florence, and masking and making music with fair dames and reverend seniors in the city of the waves. We have brought over a stock of vices and small-talk, I trust, that would decorate any court in Christendom; and, faith, if yours is such as you describe it, and fond of magnificence and merriment, velvet and volubility, we must go up and visit it; and, doubtless, shall be made much of, as our merits deserve." "The access is not so easy as you may suppose, sir," answered the other sternly; "it requires something else than a man's own account of himself to gain entrance and esteem there." "Ha! here comes our host with a very sagacious-looking bottle," cried the younger of the travellers, who thought, perhaps, his friend was pushing his jests somewhat too far. "If those cobwebs have been spun round the neck by thinner legs than your fingers, landlord, the wine would be as sour as cider, or of an immortal quality." "I will warrant you, sir," answered the host, putting down long-stalked glasses, "if ever you tasted better in your days, say my name is not Rheinhardt; and he filled up to the brim for the younger traveller and his companion. Before the former tasted it, however, he pressed their fellow-guest to join them and give his opinion of the wine; and, on his shewing some reluctance, added, 'Nay, nay, if you refuse, I shall think that you are offended with the light talk of my jesting friend there. You must bear with him, you must bear with him, sir, for it is an inveterate habit he has; and he could sooner go without his dinner than his joke, at whosever's expense it is indulged. It is the custom of the country we come from last; for there it is so dangerous to speak seriously on any subject, that men take refuge in a jest as in a sedoubt.' The stranger seemed satisfied with this explanation, joined in their wine, pronounced it excellent, forgot his haughty air, and, returning to the subject which they had left, began to expatiate once more upon the beauty, splendour, gallantry, and wit of the court of the elector, Frederic V., when suddenly a loud explosion, which seemed to shake the solid walls of the old building, and was echoed for several seconds by the rocks and mountains round, interrupted his declamation, and made the two Englishmen gaze in each other's face. Ere they could inquire farther, another roar, and then another, was heard; and, turning to their German companion, the elder exclaimed, 'In the name of our fair lady Fortune! what is the meaning of this? Is the castle besieging the town, or the town the castle? Or have you imported Mount Vesuvius to warm you here from time to time with an eruption, and preserve the antiquities of the place in ashes, pumice-stone, and sulphur?' 'Neither, my good sir,' answered their fellow-traveller, who had remained totally unmoved; 'it is but the guns of the castle firing in honour of the elector's birthday, the nineteenth of August; for on this day and hour, now three-and-twenty years ago, our noble prince was born in the good town of Amberg. There is a grand banquet at the castle to-day; but, ride hard as I would, I was too late for it, and so must content myself with going to the reception in the evening, which, they say, will be one of unusual magnificence.' 'Faith, then, I think we will go there too,' said the elder of the

two Englishmen; 'doubtless we shall see collected all the beauty of the court palatine.' 'If you get admission,' rejoined the other drily. 'Oh, that is beyond all doubt,' was the bantering reply; 'your prince can never be such a barbarian as to refuse the pleasures of his court to two such proper young men as ourselves, especially as we have the honour and advantage of your acquaintance.' 'I fancy you will find him sufficiently civilised to do so,' said the other sharply; 'and my acquaintance, sir, can only be beneficial to those of whose name and station I am informed. I may as well at once give you to understand, knowing this court, and being connected with it, that you will not be admitted unless you be properly introduced.' There was a degree of arrogance in his tone, more than in his words, that at once amused and offended the younger of the two gentlemen; and after his companion had exclaimed, 'Then must we die without benefit of clergy,' he turned towards the other gentleman, saying, with a grave smile, 'We have a bad habit, sir, in England, of proving the strength of our own convictions by laying wagers on any subject of dispute. If such were the custom here, I would ask you what you will bet that I and my friend here will not go up to the castle this very night, and, without any introduction whatsoever, without naming our names, stating our rank, or disclosing our pursuits, receive kind hospitality from the elector, and pass the evening with his court.' The personage whom he addressed replied first with a laugh, and then said: 'Perhaps you may find your way in, for the attendants are not likely to drive back a well dressed man; but if the elector's eye falls upon you, that of his chamberlain, or any of his high officers, you will soon be expelled, depend upon it, unless you divulge your names.' 'Not so,' replied the other; 'I will go straight to the elector; I will refuse to divulge my name, and yet I will pass the evening there; on all which I will stake a hundred crowns. You yourself shall be the witness, as you say you are going: but, of course, it is understood that you do and say nothing to impede my proceedings.' 'Done!' cried the other, striking his hand on the table; 'I take your wager. Methinks I should know this court better than you can.' 'I have known many courts,' answered the young man, with a good-humoured laugh, 'and never yet found one in which impudence and a cool face could not make its way. So now let us be friends and shake hands upon our wagers, which shall be decided as soon as you are ready.' The stranger took his hand, not very cordially, and replied: 'We must wait a little; the banquet will be scarcely over yet. I would fain know, too,' he added, 'who are to be my companions in entering the elector's court.' 'Oh! make yourself perfectly easy,' replied the elder of the two young men; 'you shall seem to know nothing of us from the moment you pass the gate; nay, with this sweet world's simple versatility, shall turn the shoulder coldly to those with whom you have climbed the hill the moment you have reached the top. The truth is, honourable sir, my friend and myself have resolved not to reveal our real names while travelling in these foreign lands. As a matter of course, we have each packed up with our saddle-bags and portmanteaus a fresh and well-conditioned name for the nonce. He is called Algernon Grey: I have been known for some months past as William Lovet. We do not ask you to believe that our godfathers and godmothers, at our baptisms, were at all familiar with these appellations, either nomen or prenomen; never-

* When her majesty sought a refuge from her perils and troubles in London, her royal residence or palace was at Craven Buildings, where Drury Lane joins Holywell Street.—Ed. L. G.

[Enlarged 39.]

theless, it is a whim we have, and we request our excellent friends to humour us therein. Those who would do us reverence, tack esquire to the end of each name, to designate the lowest rank of gentlemen in England qualified to bear arms; but we are not particular, and even when that title is omitted, the bare name does very well without. 'So be it then,' said their companion, gravely."

We need not say that the Englishmen win the wager, and consequently all their future course is intimately wound up with the proceedings of the Elector and the Bohemian war. We pause only on one remark, to exhibit the author's design:

"We will not go on to visit the banquet that followed, to contemplate its splendour, or criticise the ceremonies there observed. It were an easy matter to describe it, for we have many a dull relation of many a gay feast of the time; but, in this work, I have not in view to paint the mere customs and manners of the age, except incidentally, but rather to shew man's heart and feelings undisguised, and exhibit their true proportions, stripped of a gaudy but disfiguring robe of ceremony."

The love-affairs we leave where they are, for the fair section of readers; but copy a song for their gratification:

"The moon is on high, but she's hid by a cloud,
The prospect looks gloomy and drear,
And still through the night may she weep 'neath the shroud,
But daylight is coming, and near."

The heart is bowed down 'neath the cares of the hour,
And the eye may be dimmed by a tear,
But the heart shall rise up in the morn like a flower—
A brighter day's coming, and near."

We have trusted and hoped, been oppress'd, and have grieved,
But joy will return, never fear:
There's a trust and a hope that is never deceived—
A brighter day's coming, and near."

Each life has its joy, and each life has its pain,
But the tempest still leaves the sky clear;
And for honour and truth, which are never in vain,
A brighter day's coming, and near."

A duel, and a terrible danger to the heroine of being drowned, from which destiny she is only saved by the intrepidity and almost superhuman efforts of Algernon—i. e., the assumed name; for we are informed that "he felt sorry, not without good cause, that he had entered into one of those wild and romantic engagements with him, to travel together for a certain time under feigned names, which had been rendered common at that period by the publication of the most popular, but at the same time it must be said the most idle, romance that ever was written, the 'Astrea.'"

The character of the king is skilfully painted, but we can copy no more than a trait or two.

"There never was, perhaps, a more united nation than these Bohemians when they raised the elector palatine to their throne. I mean, united heart and hand in that great act. Frederic owed his elevation not to a party in the state: the whole country was his party. You recollect the enthusiasm that awaited him wherever he appeared: in the castle of the noble, in the streets of the city, amongst the cottages of the village. There was not a man to be found unwilling and unprepared to draw the sword in his cause. But now, in one short year, how changed has every thing become! the bond of union is broken; the united people is scattered into a thousand parties; and to what are we to attribute this? In a great degree to his own weakness, I fear, and his own mistakes. It is a curious thing to consider how the destruction of great parties is effected; and I fancy that it is a question on which Frederic never meditated, though it was that on which depended the stability of his power. The man who yields to the mere prejudices of the body which raises him to high station will not maintain it long, it is true; but the man who resists the legitimate claims of that body is sure to fall very soon; for the disappointment of reasonable hopes is the seed of animosity, producing a bitter harvest. If it be dangerous to disappoint friends in their just demands, it is ten

times more dangerous to encourage enemies, by endeavouring to conciliate them by any sacrifice of principle. Now Frederic has more or less incurred all these perils: in many respects he has yielded to the prejudices of the Bohemian people; and yet he has disappointed the reasonable hopes of many. He has given encouragement to enemies by weak efforts to pacify and conciliate them; and, in short, he has forgotten the maxim or the motto of an old leader in this very land, 'A friend to my friends, an enemy to my enemies; a lover of peace, but no fearer of war.'"

After the battle of Prague, fatal to the hopes and ambition of Frederic, we read as follows of what passed in the city:

"As the queen opened the door to retire into her bed-chamber, a voice of bitter lamentation was heard from within; and Christian of Anhalt exclaimed, 'Would to God that these women would learn a lesson of fortitude from their high-souled mistress. What will howling do to avert peril?' 'Be not harsh, my friend,' said Frederic, 'that is poor Ann Dudley's voice. Her husband's body lies on that bloody field without. The tidings came just ere you returned. But here is the queen again. Now let us go. I will send orders afterwards for all that may be needed. Come, sweet friend—methinks, with you beside me, I can never know despair;' and taking Elizabeth's hand, he drew it through his arm and led her down slowly; for she was great with child. The splendid carriage of blue velvet embroidered with silver stood ready in the court; and as Elizabeth's eyes fell upon its gorgeous decorations, a faint sad smile came upon her lip, and she shook her head mournfully. Oh, how the emptiness of pomp, and pageantry, and lordly state, is felt by the heart in the bitter hour of sorrow and adversity; and while the riches of the soul, the love, the friendship, the love, the tenderness, rise high in value, sink low the more sordid objects of earthly ambition and pride. A weeping train followed the queen to the carriage; some entered with her; some followed in other vehicles or on foot; and but two, of all the fair and sparkling bevy which had shared Elizabeth's days of joy and splendour, seemed now in a condition to give her comfort and support. Amelia of Solms was sad, but she wept not; Agnes Herbert grave, but firm, though gentle, in her whole demeanour. With kindly care she whispered from time to time some word of consolation in the ear of poor Ann Dudley, and, though her beautiful eyes were full of melancholy when she gazed at the queen, yet there was a hopefulness in her words which added to the strength of mind with which Elizabeth bore up under the griefs and perils of the hour."

"It seemed a long and weary way to the old citadel of Prague, as with slow steps the horses dragged the carriages up the ascent; but the gates at length were reached, and Frederic took his fair wife in his arms and carried her into the wide hall. He could not forbear saying with a sigh, 'I now know where I am. Princes seldom learn the truth till they are taught it by adversity.' An hour went by; and many a messenger came up from the lower town, each burdened with gloomy tidings. The horses and carriages were all brought up from the stables of the Hradschin, and some small sums of money, together with clothes, and papers; but it was soon found that the council of citizens had taken possession of the building; and though they did not exactly prevent the king's servants from removing his own property, yet there were questions asked and objections made which rendered the task slow and difficult. Night fell, and the confusion in the town increased. The light of numerous torches created a glare which was seen red and portentous from the Wyschehrad; and a loud murmur like the roar of a distant sea rose up and filled the watching hearts above with vague and gloomy apprehensions. Old Count Thurm had speedily joined the royal party, and a number of devoted friends surrounded Frederic and his queen;

but those who knew the Bohemian capital best did not contribute, by their warnings, to raise hopes to still anxieties. They represented the probability of tumult and violence as great; and all seemed convinced that treason had long been preparing the way for the state of mind the people now displayed."

With this imperfect sample, in addition to the others equally imperfect, we must finally recommend *Heidelberg* to all the admirers of historical romance.

THE BRITISH ARMY?

Camp and Barrack-Room; or, the British Army as it is. By a late Staff-Sergeant of the 13th Light Infantry. Pp. 316. Chapman and Hall. BY looking over the first half-dozen pages of this book, people may see why, when, where, and how the writer (?) enlisted; and, if they have no doubt of his veracity, be enabled to assure themselves of the reality of the very *apropos* appearance of so very intelligent a sergeant at the very moment when the improvement of the army has become a topic of engrossing public interest. Literature is certainly lucky in this respect. No sooner does Houslow casually, or any other striking affair raise a tumult in the national mind, than by some remarkable coincidence, some remarkable individual starts up from among the practical of politics to produce a first-chop work upon the subject. Publishers are always fortunate in meeting with such men, and so primed and loaded for the emergency that their charge is sure to go off.

There is no use in not believing that a non-commissioned officer, who has served in India, has furnished materials towards this publication; but it would be very difficult to believe that any person had written it. Like Schönbain's gun-cotton, it is not a natural growth, and bears the mark of being "doctored"—*very strongly upon the face of it. Voyages out to India and home, descriptions of Bombay and the Parsees, accounts of the origin of fire-worship, history of the Guebres, reference to Greek invasions of India, &c. &c. are irrefragable evidences of book-making beyond the chalk even of an "old soldier" up to a good many dodges. And then the style, when the sergeant comes out strong almost makes an ordinary critic gasp for breath to think that there should be so much literary elegance in an ultra barbarian bayonet-bearer not of the literary tribe or profession:

"In a monarchical state (observes our splendid Halbert), where no strong inducements exist to individual patriotism, it will ever be the case that such as possess adequate means of support will eschew the life of the private soldier; and therefore this class of the army must be formed of the indigent, and others who, from motives of necessity, shall be content to endure the privations and hardships which especially belong to this grade of military service. Great Britain must ever be content to draw the grand *matériel* of her armies from the lowest classes; and no endeavour on her part, compatible with the public weal, and it might be said with her very existence as a great nation, can effect an alteration in this respect. A great many arguments have, however, been adduced to prove the possibility of inducing a better and more enlightened class of men to enlist than at present compose the bulk of our soldiery; and certainly viewing the question *prima facie*, it would seem to be most desirable and important. The army would be improved in a moral sense, and so rendered more respectable as a class; the next matter for consideration being, how such improvement would affect the interests of the body politic at large."

The secretary at war could hardly write finer. Our sergeant is as eminent in statistics, politics, and philosophy, as if he had been a hack of the press for twenty years, instead of being soldiering in Scinde. In fact, it appears to us as if an indifferent *bona fide* narrative of some years' military service in India

* See last Literary Gazette.

dia had been dressed up to suit the appetite of the day, prolonged by collateral digressions upon familiar subjects, and shaped to excite curiosity in regard to the condition of the soldier, and the means which should be adopted to improve it. Without caring for the general argumentation on these points, we think we can draw a few peculiar morsels from the volume which are curious illustrations of the soldier's actual life in our Eastern empire, or intelligent observations upon native masters which occurred to the writer. Of the mortality in Scinde he draws a frightful picture:

"During the earlier part of this month the remnant of the 78th Highlanders arrived from Kurathee, and a large fatigue party of our men had to be sent to assist the sick on shore. Scarcely 100 men were able to march with the colours, and every one of these had suffered more or less from fever, their attenuated features bearing ample testimony to its baneful effects. They had lost, from the period of their relieving us at Sukkur until their arrival at Bombay, upwards of 700 souls. The greater part of their band had died, so that their march through the streets resembled a funeral procession, the dark plumes of their bonnets being in strange contrast with the grave-like hue of their faces. Their condition was sadly altered since I saw them reviewed twelve months before, when they were a superb body of men."^s

Such are their woes: and what are their pleasures? Drunkenness is a prevailing vice, and of its evil consequences the description is most painful; and an occasional snatch of love-making (may be forgiven for the misuse of the sacred word!) does not improve the picture:

"The weather was now delightfully cool and pleasant, and, enjoying excellent health, I found that one could exist very tolerably even in India. Our barracks were in a pretty and healthful situation, on a small rocky island, shutting in the harbour to the north, and connected with Bombay by a causeway, and which is traversed by a road terminating beneath the light-house, at its further extremity. This road, lined with gardens and bungalows, many of the latter being pretty and even elegant dwellings, and commanding on one side a view of the harbour, with the blue hills on its opposite shore, and on the other side the open sea, is a favourite drive of the *élite* of the city in the evenings; and whenever our band performed, there was no lack of pallid-faced lady listeners, whose occasional presence induced many of our officers to wear their most insinuating looks at Colabah. Nor were the soldiers behindhand in their devotion to the fair sex, with which the depot barracks at this period were overstocked, owing to the widows having arrived from the different corps, and the families of the soldiers in the field being there. Several were paired off prior to our leaving. These were escorted from the church by all the idlers of the corps, together with the band, which played its softest airs on these joyous occasions, the bridal party immediately behind stepping time with military precision, and a royal flourish of bugles greeting them as they entered the barracks. But if these happy results were consequent on the many widows in the depot, the wives of soldiers at the theatre of war in Vindhyas also there, were the cause of the most abundant litigation. The conduct of some of these was profligate in the extreme; and an acquaintance with them led many of our fellows to suppose that the remainder of the women were of the same stamp; never discovering their mistake until they became nocturnal visitants to their quarters, when an uproar ensued which led to their being lodged in the guard-room, and brought before the colonel, who, as a matter of course, severely punished them. And here I must say I felt much surprised that the depot authorities did not endeavour to repress the irregularities existing at this time in

the depot-barracks, which was a scene of the most revolting grossness. At a subsequent period, when the invalids were embarking on board the Herefordshire, taken up for their conveyance to England, many of the women who accompanied them were so drunk that they had to be hoisted on board with a teakle."

Of the former solatium we read:

"The night closed upon a painful scene in the different barracks. Men in every stage of drunkenness staggered to and fro, or lay upon the ground, or on cots, in the heavy disgusting sleep of inebriation. Ardent spirit is indeed the bane of the soldier in India, and, in numerous instances, also of those of a higher grade. Over the brow of many a scion of the aristocracy has brandy pânée shed its baleful influences, and marred the career which might have been a brilliant one. It is absolutely astonishing to see the eagerness with which the mass of European soldiers in India endeavour to procure liquor, no matter of what description so that it produces insensibility, the sole result sought for. The propensity is equally deep-rooted and pernicious, and its indulgence is often fatal, and always highly injurious to the constitution. Death, madness, premature debility, and complete disorganisation of the human system, all follow in the wake of the drunkard. *Delirium tremens* is a common disorder in military hospitals; scarcely a single week elapses in any of them without cases of this kind being under treatment; and they are mostly old soldiers whose constitutions have been shattered by continual dissipation. In the existing state of things, every known means has been resorted to for the purpose of checking drunkenness, but without success; the evil still exists without the slightest symptom of diminution. Regimental canteens are closed, unless at morning and evening; and then the men are placed under restrictions which prevent them from getting more than a single dram. But here the question naturally suggests itself, why are canteens at all permitted in India? The opinion is erroneous that liquor is an absolute necessary there: at least the great majority of medical men think so. Still the government views the matter in a different light; and its order is, that each regiment have its canteen, where the commissariat arrack is to be sold. That such a nuisance, therefore, as a canteen exists, is not the fault of the officer, nor yet of the soldier, but is the fault of the supreme power. Places of this character may be useful in the United Kingdom, where the temptations to drunkenness are few in comparison, and where many things are retailed beside liquor; but in India liquor is the staple, often the sole article vended in canteens, which are there the training schools in which young lads are initiated into every vice by the old debauchee. Liquor on a long and harassing campaign may be, and I am confident is, beneficial when taken with water; but in a station in the East, where it is necessary to keep the system regular and cool, it fires the blood, and renders it doubly susceptible of disease. During the ten months the 13th lay at Sukkur, upwards of fifty men died, the deaths averaging from four to six per month. Twenty-five, if not more, of these, lost their lives through excessive drinking. Some died from *coup-de-soliel* caught when drunk, others from apoplexy, produced by liquor, and a part from acute dysentery, resulting from the same cause. And this is generally the case in every corps in India; half the annual deaths are caused by drunkenness; for although the indulgence of this vice may not produce immediate death, and a man may even continue to drink hard for years, the constitution daily and hourly becomes more enfeebled, and less and less fitted to resist sickness. But few habitual drunkards ever return to their native country, and those who do, return only to die after a short existence there, embittered by pain and disease, the seeds of which were sown by their own vitiated conduct. It is true that in warm climates numberless distempers exist, but the best pre-

ventive against these is temperate habits. The ratio of deaths among the higher classes of Europeans is less by eighty per cent than among the troops.

"There are most certainly in India a great many inducements for a man to become a drunkard. The want of good society, pernicious example, the absence of employment or innocent amusement, and that which makes the sailor fly to the spirit-room when the bark is sinking—despair. Let it be remembered too, that the British soldier is a neglected man. He is looked on in every country as a being of inferior species; as the paria of the body politic; and thought to be almost incapable of moral or social improvement. His own officers despise him, and the public at large despise him. Surely, then, when he finds himself treated with universal contempt, it cannot be a matter of surprise that he loses all self-respect, and becomes the reckless and degraded being that he is. He has no one to represent him in parliament; no one to advocate his cause, as that of the peasant or mechanic is advocated; no wonder, then, while these are progressing in the grand march of improvement, that he is still a being of the last century."

All this leads to the theory about improvement; and our censor goes on:

"With respect to ambition, it is alien to the thoughts of the British soldiery. Very few of them, indeed, are ambitious; some may be so on enlistment, but apathetic indifference soon occupies its place. Ambition is like animal life: it requires food, and an atmosphere to exist in, amid which hope sheds its luminous halos, and lends its stimulating influences. There may be a narrow-minded, a petty sort of ambition in the service; but the British army can never have a Murat or a Ney. Men who might have been such have lived and died as private sentinels, unknown and unnoticed. Gifted scions of the aristocracy, like bright stars, sometimes arise above our military horizon, such as a Marlborough, a Wolfe, or a Wellington; but circumstances alone threw them forward, and not the fostering care which distinguishes and rewards genius."

Churchill was the son of a baronet, and Wolfe of a general-officer; but we think they could hardly be said to be scions of the aristocracy. After relating the particulars of a reckless murder, the sergeant (being himself an Irishman) observes:

"It is a singular fact that nearly the whole of the murders in the British army are perpetrated by Irishmen. Those in the 13th, I was given to understand, as in the present instance, had been all committed by my countrymen, of which for many years it has been principally composed. This circumstance is easily accounted for; the Irish are more vindictive and revengeful than either the English or Scotch. Education, no doubt, tends to do away with those unamiable national characteristics; but soldiers are not educated men, and from the peculiar circumstances of their situation no body of people exhibit quicker or more prominently native disposition than they do. An English corps is far more easily ruled, and the reins of discipline may be drawn tighter than with an Irish regiment. John is an obtuse sort of animal, caring little about kind words or suavity of manner on the part of an officer, provided he is well-fed and not over-worked; a condition he considers as the very *summum bonum* of existence. But this is not the case with Paddy, who is a faithful chronicler of insults, personal or national, which are related to recruit after recruit, and thus transmitted down for years, somewhat similar to the traditions which form a part of his own creed. Many a time have I heard the improper or unwise language or conduct of an officer severely animadverted upon, who, perhaps, had been dead or quitted the corps many years previous. On the other hand, a good word and kind treatment is the sesame to Paddy's heart, where such are treasured up till it ceases to vibrate."

^s The last news from India describe in yet more disgusting language the all but annihilation of another fine regiment by this fatal climate.—*Ed. Lit. Gaz.*

It is always thus we have, in estimates of the Irish character, folly and crime attributed to the same temperament as gratitude and warmth of heart. It is a dangerous logic, and only calculated to excuse and encourage guilt. The mutiny of the 64th Bengal Sepoys is a sad story. "This corps had formed a part of Brigadier Wild's brigade, which attempted, without success, to force the Khyber Pass in 1842. It was rumoured that even then there was considerable disaffection amongst the men, who were chiefly Hindoos, in consequence of being compelled to cross the Indus, which their superstition does not allow of.* Added to this, the fate of the Cabul army made them dislike going forward. At Ferozepore, where the seeds of disaffection were so widely scattered among the native corps in the Army of Observation by the intrigues of the Sikhs, who sedulously endeavoured by the offers of money to seduce them from their allegiance, a bad spirit again became apparent in the 64th. On the breaking up of that army, they were ordered to Scinde; and while en route thither, broke out into open mutiny."

They were circumvented, and thirty-nine of the ringleaders seized, and six condemned to death and executed. "On the preceding evening, a curious scene of superstition had occurred: a holy cow was driven by a Brahmin to the cells where they were confined, the tail of the animal being placed with much ceremony in a criminal's hand. A chattle of water was next brought, into which the prisoner put ten rupees, the sum to be paid for the privilege of grasping the cow's tail, when the Brahmin repeated a brief invocation, at the conclusion of which the sepoy relinquished his hold of the animal, and returned to his cell with the air of a man quite content to die, his place being supplied by another, who went through a similar ceremony. As the governor-general was retiring, he remarked that when he was dead he would turn into a kutha, and bite Hunter Sahib. Nothing could be more singular than the manner in which these Hindoos, who were all followers of Vishnu, having the horizontal mark upon their foreheads, met their deaths. They chattered about the most indifferent matters, until directed to mount the platform, above which swung a noose for each; and as they would not permit one of a lower caste to touch them lest they might be defiled, pinioned as they were, they contrived to slip these on their necks themselves. Some of them even coolly examined several of the cords until they saw one to their liking; and two of them resolutely swung themselves off the platform ere it was taken away."

A few native or mixed and miscellaneous touches must now, however, conclude our review:

"In India the generality of animals are much tamer than in these countries. Hawks come up to the very doors, sparrows crowd into the verandahs with their little beaks opened as they pant with heat, and jackdaws will snatch the bread out of the hands of children. The cooks, when carrying victuals on their heads, hold the basket in which the messes are placed with one hand, whilst the other is employed in waving a stick above them to keep away the hawks and jackdaws. On one occasion, one of our bobagees forgot his stick; and while proceeding to the barracks, down pounced an enormous hawk, and knocked the dinners of some dozen men to the ground. In the evenings, flocks of sheep and goats might be seen proceeding through the jungle to the village, one shepherd going in front, whom they followed whichever way he turned, while another shepherd came behind to see that none of the younger ones straggled, and to carry the weaker by turns. As a proof of an animal's tameness, and how sagacious even a bullock may become from long companionship with man, I was creditably informed (many adding their testimony to the same effect) that while the regi-

ment was at Cawnpore, in the provinces, a bleesie bullock used regularly to waken up its master at four o'clock each morning, that being the hour he went for water to the river.

"The only European troops at Sukkur, beside our corps, was a company of horse artillery, who were as dissolute a body of men as I ever met with, and nearly an equitable [*sic pro equal*] mixture of English, Irish, and Scotch. A few of them had very pretty half-caste wives, whom they had got out of the Byculla orphan school at Bombay, where any soldier of good character and possessed of capital to commence house-keeping may obtain a helpmate. These girls are tolerably well educated, and would make grateful and affectionate wives, were it not that soldiers in general make such bad husbands. For a while after marriage they may get on pretty well, but they soon become negligent, and return drunk to their berths. Half-caste women are almost invariably passionate and vindictive, readily taking offence, especially if they think that it is offered in consequence of their colour; and hence they view the indifference of their European husbands in the worst possible light—neglect their household duties as a matter of course, and will soon learn to drink, and smoke the hookah all day long if they can; becoming slatterns in every sense of the word. It must, however, be admitted that in any country a bad, dissolute husband can scarcely fail to make a bad wife; unless, indeed, the wife is a strong-minded person, who thoroughly knows the duties of her station. In countries like Ireland, where there is such a prolific supply of the gentler sex, and where so many are destined neither to be wooed nor won, becoming in due time that half-nondescript sort of animal termed old maids, persons can form no idea of the scarcity of white women in India. There, he is a fortunate man who has two or three tolerable looking daughters on the eve of womanhood; he requires no fortunes to get them off his hands; but, on the contrary, propitiatory presents shower in upon him from a dozen individuals, all ready to pay handsomely in that way, or any other, for being permitted to marry into his family. Nor need the death of a husband be a matter of much regret to a woman, for she is besieged by admirers while the tears which decency demands are still coursing one another down her cheeks. When in Calcutta, I was told it was no uncommon thing for men in the Company's civil employment to come regularly there to inquire if there were any decent soldiers' widows to be had; and I knew one woman personally who was the wife of three husbands in six months, and another who had married the fifth husband, having children by every one of them."

"The barrack I lived in, at this period, overlooked the principal thoroughfare leading to the Sudder bazaar; and in the evenings it was a source of much amusement to sit in the open air and watch the natives as they pass to and fro beneath. The different grades could be distinguished by their dress. The Khitmagar might be known from the other Hindoo or Mussulman camp-followers by his garments of spotless white, and neatly folded turban set jauntily at one side; while the dirty habiliments of the Scindian pointed him out, although one might not see his features—much coarser and more strongly marked than those of the Hindoostanee. But the oddest of the passers to and fro were the loll bazaar women, or cyprians of the cantonments, who accompany troops even on long and harassing marches. Women of the *paav* in these countries must feel surprised to see persons of their class in India taking the air, mounted astride on yabooos, and frequently riding double, like schoolboys. Nothing, indeed, can be more droll than a cortege of this description. The lean-looking yabooos; the wide trousers of the women, tight around the ankles, which are ornamented with silver bangles; the singularity of the remainder of their costume, their dark features, and the enormous rings pendant from their noses, contributed to form a subject, with the associations of place,

worthy the pencil of a Cruikshank. In Scinde the most beautiful women seek to make a profit of their persons. Shikarpore, Sehwan, and Hyderabad, are noted for their courtesans, many of whom are fair, and apparently of a different race from the other inhabitants, while at the same time their charms are heightened by every appliance of dress and ornament after the fashion of their country. Even the slippers of these belles are elaborately embroidered with gold and silver wire, one foot being withdrawn from its covering in the evenings, when seated on charpoys in front of their dwellings, in order to display the rings of the precious metals which in some instances literally cover their toes. Throughout all India, as well as in Scinde, women of this class exist in vast numbers, the large towns being full of brothels. Mahometan cities, especially, teem with pollution, from the latitude allowed by that creed; and Peshawur and Cabul are said to be the Gomorrah of our own times. Ceylon may be considered as a second Cyprus. Nor are the Europeans in general much behind the natives in libidinous practices. Many in the upper walks of life keep regular harems, and assimilate themselves to their Mahometan neighbours, scarcely preserving even the shadow of Christianity; while the lower grades exceed in sensuality the most reckless profligates of our largest cities. Although continually surrounded by pestilence and death, the white man in India, in the majority of cases, rarely bestows a thought upon religion. A luxurious climate tends to produce effeminate habits, and eventually, where there is not strength of principle in either sex, leads to criminal indulgence."

We will not trouble our civil readers with the opinions on the subject of flogging, nor other military suggestions for reform. They appear to be sound and sensible, occupy but a small portion of the work, and may deserve a share of the attention at present given to the problems for elevating the soldier, and improving the condition of the British army. The author speaks in terms of severe indignation of the brutality and demoralizing nature of the periodical medical inspections, more degrading and infamous, he declares, than flogging.

SATIRE ON WOMEN.

Hints on Husband-Catching; or, a Manual for Marriageable Misses. By the Hon. — Author of "Hints on the Nature and Management of Duns," &c. Pp. 171. Newby.

BITTER enough against the sex, under the guise of reproving sordid mothers and heartless daughters, there are, nevertheless, some unpalatable truths, and a fair leaven of sprightliness in this *jeu d'esprit*, though it pertains to the *ad captandum* class of publication, and is made for but an ephemeral existence. "Man-traps set here" is the motto; and there are some rude coloured prints, not ill-conceived, to accord with the text in prose and verse. The dedication says, half in sober earnest and half in satirical jest:

"The importance attached to the institution of marriage is not at all an exaggerated one. To select one from the mass of mortals with whom you are henceforth to share the good and ill of life in common; one whose tastes, pleasures, interests, and affections are to be yours, whether your twyn-journey be along the pleasant and flowery valleys of existence, or up its steep and precipitous paths; one whose morning and evening prayers are to ascend with your own to God; one whose unclouding eyes are to greet the morning sun when yours do; one who is to eat at the same table, to drink of the same cup, and to be, in a word, like the 'lamb' which Nathan's beautiful parable described as 'lying on the poor man's bosom'; and all this not for a few years only, but 'till death' you 'do part'—to select a partner like this, ought, indeed, to be a grave, almost an awful task, and not the theme for the satirist's or the jester's pen. And yet, ladies, I feel emboldened to dedicate my 'Hints' to you, and to approach, with the cap and

* "Owing to this circumstance, the Emperor Akbar gave the name of Attock to the fort he erected at the junction of the Cabul with the Indus river: Attock means forbidden."

bells of Momus, a subject which ought to be too sacred for anything less pure than a seraph's wing to touch! And why? Because, my fair readers, you have not been taught to look upon marriage in so solemn a light; you have not been impressed with such grave ideas of that tremendous undertaking; you, in short, would yawn with ennui at the serious dissertation, while you may welcome with a smile the more congenial jest. But in one sense I err when I assert that matrimony is not an object of vast importance in your eyes: almost from the cradle you are trained up by your ambitious mothers, to consider marriage the aim of your existence, the 'one thing needful' of life; its 'Open Sesame' to wealth, distinction, and luxuries of every description. Matrimony, then, is to be to you the signal of emancipation. A 'married woman' may do what she likes; and as long as she keeps within the limits of decorum—that is to say, as long as she is not actually an adultress—she may flirt, dress, and enjoy herself to an unlimited extent. No wonder, then, poor girls, that, with such prospects maternally and insidiously held out to your attention, you are soon convinced how desirable a consummation lies within the circle of 'the plain gold ring.' No wonder, then, that you eagerly take your places in the ranks of matrons expectant, and arm yourselves at all points for conquest. For this you study coquetry, so admirably called by George Sand—whom I may quote without offence, as your delicacy now-a-days never recoils from a French novel—'the puerile and immodest amusement of exciting desires;' for this you suffer each ball-room booby to clasp your waists, and breathe upon your cheeks in the waltz; for this you attempt—you have not the Parisian art of accomplishing it—the polka; for this you leave uncovered the swan-like neck, and the ivory shoulders, and benevolently display to us as much of your beautiful busts as you dare to shew with a due regard to the 'Society for the Suppression of Vice!' How can you, then, take it amiss if, in addition to the valuable precepts of your admirable mothers, a humble bachelor, of some little experience, perhaps, in the ways of this wicked world, should take it upon himself to give you a few useful and unpretending 'Hints' towards the furtherance of your dearest projects?"

Of the opinions, &c. in the body of the performance the following extracts will furnish a notion:

"You, my accomplished readers, marry not to insure the happiness of your husbands, but the enjoyment of your own luxuries; not the approbation of your God, but the envy of your fellow-sinners. Christianity, then, must hold no place in your education. Nor would it be advisable for you to dedicate any time or attention to literature; at least, to that sort of literature which improves and adorns the mind, while it delights the understanding and gratifies the heart. Of what earthly use—to adopt the expression of your prudent mothers—would the lay of the poet, or the impassioned, yet elevating, prose of the most brilliant genius, be to you? The poet sings of love, of the ineffable harmony which links the adorer with the adored; of the wild, yet sweet fancies, the dreamy, yet entrancing ecstasies, which are the lot of those who love. The gushing tenderness of the maid, tempered as it is by modesty; the noble ardour of the youth, chastened as it is by esteem; the spheres of light, to whose glorious regions mortals are borne on the wings of affection: these, and such as these, are the minstrel's theme; while rare and exalted conceits, holy and sublime ideas, spiritual aspirations, and heart-sprung enthusiasm, glow like the diamonds of the mine, amid the polished phrases of the essayist and the philosopher. And what, my husband-hunting readers, are all these profitless vagaries to you? Like Gallo, you 'care for none of these things.' The literary diet I should recommend for your digestion is, the vulgarity of a Mrs. Trollope, the fashionable and senseless slip-slop of a Mrs. Gore, and the dull personalities of a 'Coningsby;' or if

these, and those which resemble them, are found at last too vulgar, too senseless, and too dull, take up a volume of Balzac's, Sue's, or Soulié's (what spinster now-a-days, from the Lady Arabellas to the Miss Smiths, does not understand, or pretend to understand, French?), where the most immoral doctrines, the warmest scenes, and the most monstrous principles, are at least disguised, if not compensated, by such brilliancy and pathos. As, then, you must avoid love and Christianity, so also must you carefully eschew the vanities of real and pure literature in your education."

Again:

"A prudent spinster will study well, before marriage, the nature, so far as she can study what her suitor generally takes care to conceal as much as possible,—habits, temper, disposition, and foibles—the foibles, above all, for they are hobbies, on which, when once mounted, a man may be led, by a clever hand, to the devil itself—of him whom she thinks of accepting as her future 'lord and master.' She will watch keenly every play of the muscles, every change in the countenance, every variation in the demeanour, and shape her own course accordingly; while with the same assiduity that she employs in diving into his secrets, she will scrupulously hide her own from his scrutiny. Women, again, have the advantage of men in this respect. The male sex cannot fit so closely, or wear so becomingly, that mask of graceful dissimulation, which ladies put on and carry with so much fastidiousness. A man who wishes to be on his guard, and reserved, ordinarily becomes sullen and silent; while a woman is never so lively, talkative, and good-humoured, as when she is using the most profound dissimulation to obtain any object which she may have in view."

And the following are not bad remarks on the circumstances to which they refer:

"It is a curious fact, and one interesting to the philosophical looker-on at the game of husband-hunting, that unmarried ladies derive much more assistance from the counsels and instructions of mothers and other female relations, than they ever do from their fathers or male connexions. Woman's disposition and nature are inclined to intrigue; and the skill, manoeuvres, and adroitness which have become useless to themselves, are yet not permitted to be laid up and grow rusty, but are brought by kind-hearted matrons to the assistance and support of their unmarried relations. The father has generally the business, the pecuniary interests, and the government of the family to attend to; while the mother finds an ample field for employment in the edifying occupation of superintending the progress of her spinster daughters towards the dazzling regions of a 'good match.' The mother, then, is the natural ally of the daughter in matrimonial projects, while papa's functions in that department are generally confined to paying the 'dear girl's' *dot*, or inquiring, with laudable and parental solicitude, as to the satisfactory footing on which the 'intended' stands at his banker's. Honour your fathers, then, spinster readers, for their money pays for your luxuries; but love your mothers—as far, at least, as such hearts as yours can love anything but self—for they are your surest guides in your pursuit of a husband."

But we must not dive too deep into a trifle of this kind; and conclude with a sample of the poetry, which re-echoes the prose of every chapter:

"My Mother! A Single Lady's Lament.

Who brought me forth one happy day,
And to my flattered sire did say,

'My dear, she's just your own portrait!'

My mother!

Who, though a Christian parent styled,
Ne'er suckled me, her own dear child,
For fear her figure should be spoiled!

My mother!

'Who said, 'Be this your future plan,
My girl, make conquests when you can;
Don't pray to God, but prey on—man!'

My mother!

Who had me taught to waltz with grace,
And dance, without a blushing face,
The polka's meretricious pace!

My mother!

Who brought me 'out' at seventeen,
When I became the worshipped queen
Of all the fools in fashion's scene!

My mother!

Who cautioned me, all things above,
To never think or dream of love;
To be the hawk, and not the dove!

My mother!

Who always watched in great affright,
For fear I should be caught some night
By handsome face and pockets light!

My mother!

Who's shewn me off five seasons now,
Till every soul my face does know,
And dandies whisper, 'Tis no go!

My mother!

Who does not mark my cheek grow pale,
My health give way, my spirits fail,
Because I feel I'm getting 'stale'!

My mother!

Who'll keep me fiddle-faddling on,
Till bloom and beauty both are gone
From face and form, and then—I'm done!

My mother!"

We are glad to notice that, though the subject is tempting, there are no improprieties to disfigure and prohibit this volume.

MAD. D'ARBLAY'S DIARY AND LETTERS.

[Second notice: conclusion.]

IN Nov. 1796 Dr. Burney writing to his daughter touching the reviews of *Camilla*, says:

"The *Monthly Review* has come in to-day, and it does not satisfy me, or raise my spirits, or anything but my indignation. James has read the remarks in it on *Camilla*, and we are all dissatisfied. Perhaps a few of the verbal criticisms may be worth your attention in the second edition; but these have been picked out and displayed with no friendly view, and without necessity, in a work of such length and intrinsic sterling worth. *J'enrage! Morbleu!*"

[It is not easy to please authors or their friends.] Madame, in answer, Nov. 14, writes to her padre more rationally, yet with a personal proviso far more than ought to be expected of any honest critic, sensible of a public duty:

"Upon a second reading the *Monthly Review* upon *Camilla*, I am in far better humour with it, and willing to confess to the criticisms, if I may claim by that concession any right to the eulogies. They are stronger and more important, upon re-perusal, than I had imagined, in the panic of a first survey and an unprepared-for disappointment in anything like severity from so friendly an editor. The recommendation at the conclusion of the book, as a warning guide to youth, would recompense me, upon the least reflection, for whatever strictures might precede it. I hope my kind father has not suffered his generous, and to me most cordial, indignation against the reviewer to interfere with his intended answer to the affectionate letter of Dr. Griffiths."

The *Monthly Review*, in fact, performed its task in the true spirit of periodical criticism, kindly, yet fairly, and gently and favourably, though impartially and justly. Two other literary topics are here touched. Madame writes (1796):

"I think I would risk my new cottage against sixpence that I have guessed the author of *The Pursuits of Literature*. Is it not Mr. Mason? The verses I think equal to anybody; those on Shakespeare, *His pen he dips in mind*, are demi-divine. And who else could so well interweave what concerns music?—could so well attack Dr. Parr for his severity against Dr. Hurd, who had to himself addressed his essay on the marks of imitation? Who be so interested, or so difficult to satisfy, about the exquisite Gray? Who know so well how to appreciate works upon gardening? Who, so singularly, be for the sovereign, the government, yet, palpably, not for George the Third nor for William Pitt? And then, the lines which form

this sort of epitaph seem for him (Mason) alone designed. How wickedly he has flogged all around him, and how cleverly!"

For all this certainty of conjectural criticism, the author turned out to be Mathias and not Mason! Again: "We have not yet read *Le Vaillant*. We are not much struck with *The Creole*; it is too full of trite observations introduced sententiously. *Clarentine* is written with much better taste. We have just been lent *Caleb Williams*, or *Things as they are*. Mr. Lock, who says its design is execrable, avers that one little word is omitted in its title, which should be thus—'or *Things as they are* are not.'"

Where is *Clarentine* now? *Caleb Williams*, too, is little thought of in the flux of novelties of a different genus; but it must revive from time to time as a production of very superior force and talent. Before advancing to other years, we must copy here an affecting incident on the death of Dr. Burney's second wife:

"Let me not forget (writes her daughter-in-law) to record one thing that was truly generous in my poor mother's last voluntary exertions. She charged Sally and her maid both not to call my father when she appeared to be dying; and not disturb him if her death should happen in the night, nor to let him hear it till he arose at his usual time. I feel sensibly the kindness of this sparing consideration and true feeling. Yet, not so would I be served! O never should I forgive the misjudged prudence that should rob me of one little instant of remaining life in one who was truly dear to me!"

Yet it was a noble trait of affection even to death.

The first short-lived peace with Buonaparte enabled M. d'Arblay to return to France, to try to recover his military position, and any of his property the Revolution might have left. Thither, as we have mentioned, his wife and son, Alexander the second, &c. followed him; and after sojourning a while at Paris, where all his efforts were unavailing, he accepted a small post in the ministry of the interior, and retired to a solitude at Passy, where they continued during the rest of their long and painful stay in the country. Of the non-intercourse, and immense difficulty of corresponding with England at this period, when prohibited under pain of death, an idea may be formed when we state that the subjoined are sequent dates of Madame d'Arblay's letters to and from her father: April 11th, 1804; May 29th, 1805; July 12th, 1805; June 12th, 1808; September 16th, 1807 (so long on its way!); September, 1808; May and September, 1810; April, 1811; and May 29th, 1812—altogether, in sixteen pages of the book. The extraordinary nature of such correspondence may be surmised from the following, in the letter of May 29th, 1805, i.e. thirteen months after its last-preceding:

"Before I expected it, my promised opportunity for again writing to my most dear father is arrived. I entirely forget whether, before the breaking out of the war stopped our correspondence, M. d'Arblay

* A fortnight after she seems to have got better informed, for she writes: "I, too, thought the prose of the *Pursuits of Literature* too spirited and good for Mr. Mason, when compared with what I have seen of his general letters; but he has two styles in prose as well as poetry, and I have seen compositions, rather than epistles, which he wrote formerly to Mrs. Delaney, so full of satire, point, and epigrammatic severity and derision, upon those of their mutual acquaintance whom he confidentially named, that I feel not the least scruple for my opinion. In those letters with which that revered old friend entrusted me, when her eyesight failed for reading them herself, there were also many ludicrous sketches of certain persons, and caricatures as strong of the pencil as of the pen. They were written in his season of democracy, and my dear Mrs. Delaney made me destroy all that were mischievous. The highest personages, with whom she was not then peculiarly, as afterwards, connected, were held up to so much ridicule, that her early regard and esteem diminished as her loyalty increased; and immediately upon taking possession of the house given her at Windsor by the king, she struck the name of Mr. Mason from her will, in which she had bequeathed him her 'Sacharissa,' which he had particularly admired, and left it to me." [Favours and flattery are powerful agents for change.]

had already obtained his *retraite*; and consequently, whether that is an event I have mentioned or not. Be that as it may, he now has it—it is 1500 livres, or 62l. 10s. per annum. But all our resources from England ceasing with the peace, we had so little left from what we had brought over, and M. d'Arblay has found so nearly nothing remaining of his natural and hereditary claims in his own province, that he determined upon applying for some employment that might enable him to live with independence, however parsimoniously. This he has, with infinite difficulty, &c. at length obtained, and he is now a *redacteur* in the civil department of *les Batiments*, &c. This is no sinecure. He attends at his bureau from half-past nine to half-past four o'clock every day; and as we live so far off as Passy, he is obliged to set off for his office between eight and nine, and does not return to his hermitage till past five. However, what necessity has urged us to desire, and made him solicit, we must not, now acquired, name or think of with murmuring or regret. He has the happiness to be placed amongst extremely worthy people; and those who are his *chefs* in office treat him with every possible mark of consideration and feeling. We continue steady to our little cell at Passy, which is retired, quiet, and quite to ourselves, with a magnificent view of Paris from one side, and a beautiful one of the country on the other. It is unfurnished—indeed, unpapered, and every way unfinished; for our workmen, in the indispensable repairs which preceded our entering it, ran us up bills that compelled us to turn them adrift, and leave every thing at a stand when three rooms only were made just habitable."

The glory in which the first consul was held in 1802 is laughably shewn in an anecdote, as follows: "Precisely opposite to the window at which I was placed the chief consul stationed himself after making his round; and thence he presented some swords of honour, spreading out one arm with an air and mien which changed his look from that of scholastic severity to one that was highly military and commanding. Just as the consular band, with their brazen drums as well as trumpets, marched facing the first consul, the sun broke suddenly out from the clouds which had obscured it all the morning; and the effect was so abrupt and so dazzling, that I could not help observing it to my friend, the wife of *m'am*, who, eyeing me with great surprise, not unmixed with the compassion of contempt, said, 'Est-ce que vous ne savez pas cela, madame? Dès que le premier consul vient à la parade, le soleil vient aussi! Il a beau pleuvoir tout le matin; c'est égal, il n'a qu'à paraître, et tout de suite il fait beau.'"

"Uprose the sun and uprose Cicely"

was a line never heard of by the Parisian dame. Of Louis Buonaparte, at this time, we have a pleasing recollection. His youth, like the rest of his career in every relation of life, even when crowned King of Holland, to his recent death, appears to have been marked by every good quality:

"Permit me now to go back to Joigny, for the purpose of giving some account of two very interesting acquaintances we made there. The first was Colonel Louis Buonaparte, youngest brother but one (Jerome) of the first consul. His regiment was quartered at Joigny, where he happened to be upon our last arrival at that town, and where the first visit he made was to M. Bazille, the worthy maternal uncle of M. d'Arblay. He is a young man of the most serious demeanour, a grave yet pleasing countenance, and the most reserved yet gentlemanly manners. His conduct in the small town (for France) of Joigny was not merely respectable, but exemplary; he would accept no distinction in consequence of his powerful connexions, but presented himself everywhere with the unassuming modesty of a young man who had no claims beyond what he might make by his own efforts and merits. He discouraged all gaming, to which the inhabitants are extremely prone, by always playing low

himself; and he discountenanced parade, by never suffering his own servant to wait behind his chair where he dined. He broke up early both from table and from play; was rigid in the discipline of his military duties, strict in the discipline of his officers as well as men, and the first to lead the way in every decency and regularity. When to this I add that his conversation is sensible, and well bred, yet uncommonly diffident, and that but twenty-three summers have yet rolled over his head, so much good sense, forbearance, and propriety, in a situation so open to flattery, ambition, or vanity, obtained, as they merited, high consideration and perfect good will. I had a good deal of conversation with him, for he came to sit by me both before and after his card-party wherever I had the pleasure to meet him; and his quiet and amiable manners, and rational style of discourse, made him a great loss to our society when he was summoned to Paris upon the near approach of the event which gave him a son and heir. He was very kind to my little Alex., whom he never saw without embracing, and he treated M. d'Arblay with a marked distinction extremely gratifying to me."

We need not gratify our readers with the accounts of Madame d'Arblay's married and maternal delights. In August 1812, after a vain attempt in 1810, she contrived to get to England with her son; and here the present volume ends—another being promised early to conclude the publication, which is just one of that chatty, *reminiscient*, entertaining, and interesting character, which will insure a continuance of popularity.

Morceaux Choisis des Auteurs Modernes à l'Usage de la Jeunesse. Pp. 397. Londres, Dulau and Co., Rolandi, Baillière, &c.

The multitude of collections from eminent writers of the past usually present a certain *quantum* of sameness, which diminishes their interest; and one is so like another, that it is generally of small consequence which we may happen to buy for the edification of the young, and an inducement to make them more familiar with a language. The little volume now before us strikes out a new track, and is seductive to the study of the French tongue. It is a very judicious and tasteful selection from modern *literati* of France, and undeniably entitled to the appellation of *Choisis*—well-chosen tit-bits. We are not aware of any similar production; and as it is carefully guarded from aught of the immoral or offensive, which in our day so corruptly pervades the publications of our neighbours, we can the more frankly recommend it as a book to take its place beside the *Recueils* of prior dates, in every school and home reading-room of England. The pieces are from two dozen of French authors, and our voucher for their propriety is the more needful, since, though we have the safe and instructive Guizot, Michelet, Salvandy, Thierry, Villemain, &c., we have also the doubtful and precarious Jules Janin, Eugène Sue, and others of a stamp whose writings could not be "promiscuously" quoted for the improvement of our rising generation.

Mair's Tyro's Dictionary of the Latin Language. Remodelled and enlarged by G. Ferguson, A.M. Edinburgh Academy. Pp. 473. Edinburgh, Bell and Bradfute, and Oliver and Boyd; Aberdeen, Clark and Son.

CONCISE, excellently arranged, and judiciously compiled, material and execution are alike deserving of our commendation. It is far superior to many larger and more pretending works.

Discourses and Essays. By J. H. Merle D'Aubigné, D.D. With an Introduction, by R. Baird, D.D. Pp. 360. Glasgow and London, W. Collins.

A CHEAP reprint from the American edition of this popular author, whose religious opinions and lessons have produced so much influence on society.

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ARTS AND SCIENCES.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION: SOUTHAMPTON.

Our remarks upon the backwardness and apathy displayed by the people of Southampton and its neighbourhood towards the congress of the British Association have been thought harsh towards the few who seemed to take any concern in the meeting, or offer the least shew of welcome to its members. We are glad that we have stirred up, however late, a sense of shame and regret; and we hope that this portion of Hogland will be roused to some effort to associate itself more genially to the rest of the civilisation of our island. Its library of 1200 volumes may then boast of something approaching that of the small town of Lewes, which possesses upwards of 10,000 volumes, mostly of standard works in history, science, and general literature;* and the inhabitants not stand in need of such an apology as one of their two weekly newspapers, the *Advertiser*, humbly suggests for them "on this occasion." Truly it says:

"The visit has been an event of which the town ought to be proud; for it is one which cannot fail to have left behind it a taste and desire for the cultivation of science" [?]. It is some proof of retributive justice that the cultivation of ignorance may probably meet its reward in the expense of an abortive experiment to have an Artesian well (20,000*l.*), since the writer adds, "the highest authorities in the Association have shewn the probability of such a dislocation having taken place in the chalk basin as will prevent the water rising to the surface, and they hesitate as to encouraging any impression that the water will not have escaped. Yet how repeatedly and unanimously have gentlemen, and men of some pretensions to knowledge of the subject, urged upon the town the advisability of the work and the certainty of success! We must, even now, though with some pain and mortification as townsmen, acknowledge that the attendance at the Sections on the part of the town has been most trivial, and that of the members of the public boards shamefully neglectful. In vain have we tried to muster up a dozen of the sixty or seventy Commissioners of Waterworks, for instance, who have attended the meetings of the Association; except when the well on the Common was inspected, without costing them individually a sixpence. We have heard complaints that the scientific gentlemen did not spend any money in the town. The charge is untrue, and, from some parties who make it, most ungrateful. Though the charges at lodgings and hotels were not exorbitant [5*s.* per night for beds of the commonest kind, and 5*s.* for very bad dinners], they were not low; and all the hotels at least were filled to overflowing."

The urbanity and zeal of the President are then deservedly lauded, and, indeed, had it not been for the indefatigable exertions of Sir R. Murchison in every way,—in attentions to the foreign visitors, in acquiring and regulating the scientific communications of high importance, in devoting himself personally to the laborious elucidation of his own peculiar geological domain, in procuring the valuable patronage of royalty, and, in short, in anxiously endeavouring to make all run smoothly and triumphantly, whether pertaining to the grave investigations or social enjoyments of the meeting,—it must have been a comparative failure, instead of a prosperous and promising advance.

And it is worth while to pause a little on the altered state of things which contributes to cast such onerous burdens either upon private individuals or voluntary associations. In elder times the connexion between the scientific or literary man and the government and aristocracy of the country was of an intimate nature, and recognised in all their intercourse. We can have no wish that the self-esteem and independence of the philosopher or bard should ever again have to rely on the

favour of any particular official in power or the countenance of any wealthy and noble personage, to be paid by the prostration of divine intellect, and the tribute of fulsome flattery. But when we live at a period when government rather depresses than elevates these orders of men, when the limit of their encouragement is so inappreciably small that we may say *nothing* is done for literature or science, the natural consequence is, that if countenanced at all, it must be by private individuals of congenial tastes and pursuits, or by societies formed for the purpose, as is the case with the British Association and their present energetic president.* But there is another and more natural result which follows the neglect of genius by the public authorities, the wealthy, and the great,—it sours the glorious gift in the lofty-minded, and in those of a lower nature it suggests the sordid fact, that the best paymasters are to be found in the multitudinous ranks of radicalism, democracy, revolutionists, and malcontents. It is thus we see so much of talent lavished in the business of levelling, and exasperating class against class,—that we see the poison of infidelity spread out on every side,—that we see the rich assailed and asspersed, and the poor stimulated to revenge and crime,—that we see such abundance of ridicule called in aid of such abundance of sophistical reasoning, to inflame a people, and menace the peaceful endurance of our political and social system.

"Give me the ballad-writers," observed a wise statesman, "and I will ensure the tranquillity of the realm;" would it not be a yet wiser experiment, to do something towards getting, as well as the ballad-writers, the ready penmen of popular literature, the true wits, the clever and the learned of the day, on the side of order and paternal rule, instead of carelessly throwing them into the opposite scale to weigh down the balance for discontent and insubordination? But we are speculating over the kingdom, and must return to Southampton, poor and pitiable as was our reception there.

On Friday evening Professor Owen delivered his discourse, of which a faithful abstract is prepared for our next No.

On Saturday the President's geological excursion round the Isle of Wight, with Mr. Lyell, Sir H. De la Beche, Capt. Ibbetson, and a party of between two and three hundred persons; a supplementary expedition of about sixty, with Dr. Buckland, who landed on the northern side and crossed the isle to meet the navigators at Black-Gang Chine, on the farther shore; and the visit of about a hundred individuals to view the Dean of Winchester's garden at Bishopstoke,—thinned headquarters, and left only two Sections, A and F, the capacity for sitting.†

COAL OF INDIA.

[The varied and important interests involved in this communication by Prof. Ansted, induce us to give it verbatim.]

The subject of coal in reference to our Indian territories has for a long time been looked upon as of great practical importance; and the increase of steam navigation, as well as the proposed introduction of railroads into that country, renders every matter connected with the subject in the highest degree interesting. I have received, since my arrival at Southampton, through the kindness of Colonel Sykes, a copy of a report recently made to the Indian Government giving an *aperçu* of the information at present obtained concerning the various beds of coal chiefly in Northern India, and I cannot help thinking that an account of the information thus communicated may be generally useful, especially as much of it is new, and a very large proportion of the remainder, although known to

* We are not of the *laudator temporis acti* school; but whilst remarking on Sir R. Murchison's services to the British Association, we cannot forget how much the Royal Geographical Society also owes to him.—*Ed. L. G.*

† A small dredging party were also out on the Southampton Water.

those who have been long accumulating matter that bore reference to this subject, is little familiar to the great body even of those most interested in Indian affairs.

The coal-districts of India, as determined in this report, may be considered as five in number,—three of these are in Northern India, and one in Cutch, while the fifth includes the province of Arracan and the coast of the Burman empire near Tennasserim. Of these the Cutch coal is certainly not of the carboniferous epoch, and it appears to be of little importance at present, and unpromising. It has also been described by Captain Grant, in the Transactions of the Geological Society, and therefore I will not now allude to it. I shall endeavour to describe, first, the chief points of importance with reference to the great and continued series of the North-Indian coal-fields, and then allude shortly to the prospects of success in the attempt to obtain coal from the coasts of the Bay of Bengal.

The whole district, extending from the neighbourhood of Hoosungabad on the Nerubudda river (lat. 23° N. long. 78° E.), on the left or south bank of the river, and extending in a north-easterly direction for a distance of about 400 miles to Palamon, thence eastward for 250 miles to Burdwan near Calcutta, and running northward for 150 miles to Rajmahal, exhibits, it would appear, at intervals by no means distant, a continually repeated outcrop of rocks, consisting of sandstones and shales, with occasional limestone; while at intervals a number of beds of coal have been recognised, of variable thickness and value, but all appearing to exhibit evidence of the existence there of a great coal-district.

Commencing again on the flanks of the Garrow mountains near the Burhampooter, and on both banks of that vast river, we find another, or perhaps a continued outcrop of similar beds also containing coal, and reaching in a north-easterly direction for nearly 400 miles. The intermediate plains, whose breadth between Rajmahal and Jumalpor is about 100 miles, are chiefly alluvial, and thus it is possible that there exists a vast range of carboniferous strata reaching for upwards of 1000 miles along the flanks of the Himalaya mountains,—the distance from the mountain chain gradually increasing as we advance westward, the mountains tending northwards and the outcrop of the carboniferous bed southwards, until finally, the distance between them being upwards of 500 miles, the relation is not easily recognised. The whole of the drainage of the Ganges and the Burhampooter occurring, however, in this interspace, we are enabled to connect the geological phenomena in a very interesting manner. Before, however, considering the relation of the discovery thus made to Indian geology generally, it will be necessary to give some account of the nature of the coal in the various places where it has been worked, and the present state of our knowledge on the subject.

I. Commencing with the neighbourhood of Calcutta, we have first to consider the Burdwan coal-district, and with this I shall group the Adji and the Rajmahal fields,—all these are on the banks of either the Hooghley or Ganges, or on the tributaries of these rivers. The Burdwan district has been long known, and a good deal worked. The workable beds of coal are nine and seven feet thick respectively. They are associated with sandstone, shale, and a little clay, ironstone, and about six other thinner seams of coal, while other thick beds are mentioned, but their real existence as separate beds is doubtful. There are now thirteen spots at which this coal is worked, but most of them are surface working. The deepest sinking is 190 feet. The distance to Calcutta is about 90 miles, but the actual transit of coal is nearly 200 miles. There would seem to be a continuous outcrop of the same kind of rocks from Burdwan up the Adji river, and northwards to Rajmahal. On the Adji river the coal has been worked in more than one spot, and is found to be of about the same quality as that of Burdwan; but neither of them is con-

* See Dr. Mantell's *Day's Ramble*, just published, pp. 119, 120.—*Ed. L. G.*

sidered of nearly so good quality as the English coal. Farther on, at Rajmahal, coal is known to exist, but has not yet been much worked. The quality of that which has been obtained does not appear good.

II. The Burdwan coal-field appears to be connected, by a continuous outcrop, with a district at Palamon, in which coal has been worked in no fewer than four places. The coal here is apparently immediately reposing in a valley enclosed by hills of granite, and is associated with a good deal of iron. There are several beds that are of workable size, but a good deal of the coal is heavy and of inferior quality, and some of it appears to be anthracitic. These coal-beds are not far from the Soane river, and about 100 miles from its confluence with the Ganges, a little above Dinapore and Patna; but the Soane is not at present navigable. To the west of Palamon the carboniferous beds are described as appearing along two irregular lines, the one towards the south-west for 150 miles, reaching beyond Koorbah, and the other more westward, by Sahageepoor, to the Nerbudda. These beds appear to connect themselves with the Burdwan coal-field; and near Ramgurh coal has been obtained in two or three places. This coal is said to be of very good quality and of considerable thickness; but there can be little doubt that a statement made in the report, of the bed of coal being 200 yards in thickness, must be owing to some misunderstanding of the account and sketch originally communicated. It seems certain, however, from the extent of the outcrop, that the seam must be one of considerable magnitude. Westwards, again, from Palamon, and at a distance of about 50 miles, coal has been found in several places in Singrowli, but the beds at present known are thin; and again, to the south-west, the same mineral occurs at Sirgoojah, where fine coal has been seen, but is not used at present. Between the Singrowli coal and Jubulpore excellent coal has been found in several places, indicating an extensive coal-field; but the nature and thickness of the beds is not stated.

The Nerbudda district, although from the drainage of the country it belongs to the Bombay side of India, is manifestly more related, so far as the old rocks are concerned, with the Bengal territory. The coal is about 350 miles from Bombay, and the Nerbudda river is at present not navigable. There seem to be three districts in the Nerbudda valley in which coal is found, but the most important of them is that near Gurrarwarra, about midway between Hoosungabad and Jubulpore. The coal here, indeed, appears to be perhaps the best hitherto found in India, and exists in beds three in number, whose thickness respectively is said to be 20 feet, 40 feet, and 25½ feet. There are also other beds, one of which is four feet.

The discovery of this, the Benar coal-field, promises to be of great importance. It is also very near another basin, where there are beds also of excellent quality, one of them 6 feet in thickness. At Jubulpore itself coal has been found at a depth of 70 feet, one bed being nearly 12 feet thick.

III. Let us consider now the district east of Calcutta. We there find true carboniferous rocks on both flanks of the Garrow Mountains, commencing near Jumelpore, and thence continuing north-eastwards for a distance amounting on the whole to nearly 400 miles through Lower and Upper Assam. The district nearest Calcutta is Silhet, on the south flanks of the Garrow, where eleven beds of coal have been determined, whose total thickness as already ascertained is said to amount to 85 feet. This coal is of excellent quality, and can as readily be conveyed to the Upper Ganges as the Burdwan coal. The most remarkable beds occur at Cherra Ponji; but these appear irregular, although they are undoubtedly of great thickness in several spots, amounting sometimes to nearly 30 feet. There are also other important beds. They have been known for more than ten years, but have not been worked; and since their first

discovery large quantities of iron have been smelted with charcoal.

After passing the districts in which the coal has been thus clearly exhibited, we proceed next to the Assam districts, also more or less continuous, and extending for about 350 miles chiefly along the south side of the Burhampooter; the whole being divided into the two groups of Lower and Upper Assam, separated at Bishenath, 170 miles above Calcutta. Six coal-fields are enumerated in the Upper district, and three in the Lower; but the latter, although it would seem not so promising, are looked on as scarcely less important in consequence of their greater accessibility.

So far as details are concerned, however, the Lower Assam coal offers but little that is in any way positive; the indications consisting rather of rolled fragments drifted, than of distinct and well-marked beds. It is called lignite in a report from Lieut. Vetch; but both coal and lignite are terms frequently used without reference to any peculiar character of the mineral, or any geological position. Similar beds of coal or lignite to those found in Lower Assam, south of the Burhampooter, are also mentioned as occurring on the north in three of the streams flowing into that river from the Bootan range. The Upper Assam coal is manifestly of great interest, and likely to prove very important. It is associated with abundance of clay ironstone.

About eighty miles above Bishenath other beds, stated to be 6 feet thick, have been worked for the sake of trying the economic value of the coal. It is described by the commander of one of the Assam Company's steamers in a letter, dated 24th January, 1845, as far the best he ever had on board a steamer, and far superior to any coal in Calcutta. From the growing importance of the tea-trade from Assam, this is likely, therefore, to be of great value. Still farther up the country there are several important beds, dipping, it would appear, at so high an angle, and placed so unfavourably with regard to present means of transport, that it would be difficult to work them. The other beds that appear in this district are exposed to the same difficulty; and the coal throughout northern India appears to be in this respect unfavourably placed.

Passing on now to the other districts in India and the East, in which carboniferous rocks and beds of coal have been met with, I have to enumerate two, the Tenasserim and the Arracan districts, which, from their near vicinity to India and their geographical position, are of considerable importance. The former has been known for some years, and there are said to be four spots at which coal appears; but of these one only seems likely to prove of economic value. From the accounts given of this coal there is every reason to conclude, that one of the beds is not of the carboniferous period; and although another (on the Thian Khan) has been the subject of a far more favourable report, being called cannel coal, and stated by Mr. Prinsep to be an admirable coal for gas, there is yet much probability of the whole being of the tertiary period. These beds have been described in the *Journal of the Asiatic Society* for 1838.

In Arracan there are eleven beds of coal, but all of them are thin, and their position nearly vertical. They are said to be associated with sandstones, limestones, and shales; but it is clear that they can at present be looked at only as indications, and not of any practical importance.

Such is a general account of the coal-districts of India, so far as I have been able to glean evidence from the report of the committee for the investigation of the coal and mineral resources of India for May 1845. This report manifestly contains much detailed information that is of practical importance; but one can hardly help being struck by the absence of that definite information with regard to associated beds, and the general position of the coal, which could alone, under the peculiar circumstances, have given to geologists satisfactory evidence as to the age of this widely-extended deposit. Speaking now to geologists, and to many who are

fully alive to the vast importance of accurate and detailed knowledge of the structure of a country before great mining operations are commenced in it, I need not do more than allude to the absence of this kind of information; but, having stated its absence, I may perhaps be permitted to offer my own views of the subject as obtained from the perusal of the documents laid before me.

Connecting, as I think we cannot help doing, the general geology of Asia with that of Europe, and looking at the wide extension of true coal-bearing rocks in the northern hemisphere,—tracing these rocks, as we are able to do at intervals, from our own country eastward through Belgium, Northern Germany, Bohemia, and Silesia, thence across to the valley of the Donetz, watching the development of the older beds of the Devonian period in Armenia, and thence on the northern side of the great Himalayan range,—discovering them in their most characteristic form in the Altai mountains, and finding them also on the south flanks of these lofty mountains in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, where the Burdwan beds have long been known, giving satisfactory evidence of their age; there is certainly no reason for wonder if these carboniferous beds, in their most typical and valuable form, should be traceable also throughout Northern India. For what is the geological structure of that country? The Himalayas themselves, the great back-bone of Asia, are probably to be looked on as a mountain chain much more recent than the Alps. In India the great Sewalik tertiary, where fossils are now being figured and described by Major Cautley and Dr. Falconer in a monograph, the most magnificent that has yet been attempted, are lifted into hills which elsewhere might well deserve the name of mountains; and whatever the conditions may have been subsequently to original deposition of the beds, there is no reason why, in a country where the scale is in everything so vast, there should not be a continuous outcrop of carboniferous rocks for hundreds of miles together. In consequence of movements of very recent date, wide tracts of India, occupying tens and almost hundreds of thousands of square miles to the south, are covered with basalt, and other large tracts of still greater extent by modern and almost alluvial formations, providing by their decomposition the most prolific soil in the world. Between and amongst this extent of modern eruptive movement, and forming, perhaps, a barrier to some of the beds, comes in, it would seem, the great range of carboniferous beds, exhibited at intervals through the country, nearly parallel with the great range of disturbance, and also greatly disturbed and elevated, and broken into small basins. So far as the evidence goes, it is certainly probable that the coal found near Burdwan to the north and west, and apparently continuous with it, is of the same age. If so, analogy would suggest that the similar and similarly situated beds much farther to the west, but still nearly continuous, are of the same age; and the districts to the east contain, it would seem, at least some coal so like the other in quality, that here also we should expect it. But analogy goes yet farther, and running down the coast of the Birman empire towards the great island of Borneo, recent investigations seem to shew that there also beds of coal of great value, and of the carboniferous epoch, exist. I will not cross the great line of elevation in the tropic of Capricorn, and cross to the eastern coast of Australia, for a farther illustration; but the idea cannot fail to strike every geologist that so singular an association of similar beds over so large a part of the existing land on the earth must, if true, have its origin in some general cause, the result of a law of far greater universality than any we now recognise.

But, on the other hand, it is by no means impossible, when we consider the extent to which the tertiary are developed in the great range of conglomerates on the flanks of the Himalayas, and the similar and almost equally fossiliferous deposits on the banks of the Irawaddi on the east and in

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the Gulf of Cambay on the west, that, after all, these beds are not carboniferous, but merely occasional and irregular bands of modern or tertiary lignite. Should this be the case, it will be necessary and interesting to determine the point, and recognise, if possible, the actual extension of the Burdwan field, concerning whose age the fossils collected by Dr. Royle leave no doubt. The relation also of these beds with those of the Etna mountains by a comparison of fossils is an important and most interesting point.

Speculations of this nature cannot fail to be suggested by the present communication. A vast and most important subject is presented for our consideration, but unfortunately, the evidence is imperfect in a most important point. These beds of coal, occurring as they do chiefly in granitic basins, and often detached, like the coal of France, may be, as I believe they are, of the carboniferous age; they may also be oolitic, like the imperfect coal of Cutch, and of some parts of our own country, or they may be tertiary lignites. Now it may seem of little importance to the mere surveyor what the geological position of these beds may be, provided there is the material he needs; but experience renders it probable that on the mere question of age does, in fact, depend much of their true economic value. Could it be satisfactorily shewn that throughout the wide district of northern India there is a true outcrop of carboniferous beds—such as occur in England, in America, or even in eastern Australia—there can be no question that the value of a very large part of the possessions of England in the East might be considered much increased; for the beds would then probably be ready and permanent, and the application of the resources in knowledge and wealth of a great, a rich, and an enterprising people, would very soon being into operation, in all those districts, manufactures and commerce on the grandest scale. The navigation of the rivers, the state of the roads, the means of communication by railroads, would be immediately established or permanently improved; and the result must be improvement in the condition of the country.

Should it, on the other hand, appear that these so called coal-fields are merely detached basins of lignite, whether tertiary or oolitic, they would, in all probability, be of variable and local thickness: their value might appear considerable at the first glance; but it might even not repay the expense of working: the quantity would be much less than was calculated, the quality would not improve in deep workings, and the real and important uses of mineral fuel would not be recognised in it. A small amount of strict geological knowledge and a few fossils would have tended to set at rest, if it did not completely settle, this question, which I think it will be at once seen is of great importance. I ought, perhaps, to apologise for taking up the time of the meeting by such remarks as these; but the absence generally of distinct knowledge of the principles of our science amongst gentlemen who on every other account are so admirably adapted for the work they undertake is too well illustrated in the present case and too generally important not to excuse my introducing the subject. My own position, too, as one of those employed in the education of a large number of practical men in geological science; and the fact that I have interrupted a course of geological lectures to the cadets, who will in future years form the great body of the officers of our Indian army, is a satisfactory proof that this view is now beginning to be understood by those who are, perhaps, most interested in its application. Much yet remains to be done in the application of science to art, and possibly the result of the present investigation may give additional reason, if any were wanted, for commencing some general system of scientific education.

The result of the present inquiry will be seen at once to be unsatisfactory, although highly suggestive for future investigation. No value can be attached to mere statements of the existence of

carbonaceous matter in beds, because many of the important practical conditions are independent of mere appearance and experiments on detached fragments.

NATURAL HISTORY.

On Friday, Mr. W. Thompson's notes on the land mollusca, zoophytes, and algae of the Isle of Wight, stated that the object of the communication was to inform naturalists visiting the island what species they might expect to find in the classes indicated, which are less known than the other departments of its natural history. Rare and interesting species were noticed, and the localities where they had been obtained by the author particularised. Freshwater Bay and the adjacent coast to the east of it were stated to be the best localities in the island for the marine invertebrate animals and algae.

On Monday the same accurate observer compared the zoology of Lough Neagh, Ireland, with that of the Lake of Geneva (the insects by Mr. A. H. Halliday). The respective areas of the two lakes, and their physical, &c. differences being first noticed, a comparison was then given of as many portions of the subject as the published memoirs on the zoology of the Swiss lake afforded data to consider, including the birds, fishes, mollusca, and certain families of the insects. A brief notice of the crustacea and annelida of Lough Neagh, and some remarks on the botany of its shores and waters, concluded the paper.

On Tuesday, Mr. Thompson produced his "Additions to the fauna of Ireland," including species new to that of Britain. These additions comprised about fifty species of vertebrate and invertebrate animals. Those unrecorded in the British fauna were the purple water-hen (*Porphyrio hyacinthinus*), obtained in the county of Kerry by Mr. Richard Chute; the *Tellina Vaulastina* and *Pleurotoma striolata*, both known as Mediterranean species,—the former procured by Mr. Barlee, the latter by Mr. Mac Andrew, on the western coast of Ireland; *Botrylloides albicans*, Edw., and *B. rotifera*, Edw., collected on the coast of Down by the author; and *Pontobdella levis*, Blainville. A new *Actinia* of the genus *Corynactis*, Allman, was noticed; and two new species of *Amphozoa* (sponges), and a *Daphnia*, believed to be undescribed, were stated to have been obtained. "*Dysidea* (?) *papillosa*," Johnston, whose place in the system had been uncertain, was lately ascertained by the author to be a helianthoid zoophyte of the genus *Zoanthus*.

And on Wednesday he concluded his interesting communications with a comparison of the periods of the flowering of the plants in the early spring of 1846 in the Botanic Garden of Belfast and the Jardin des Plantes at Paris.* Also, notes on the additions to the flora of Ireland. The comparison shewed that the same species flowered much earlier at Belfast than at Paris, though, at the latter locality, the spring of 1846 was the earliest of the last forty years. It was suggested that returns of this kind from the botanic gardens of the United Kingdom, and these again compared with similar catalogues from the public gardens on the continent of Europe, would possess much interest in various points of view. A few species of phænogamic and cryptogamic plants were noticed as additions to the flora of Ireland, and specimens exhibited. The phænogamic species were chiefly collected by Mr. D. Orr, foreman in the Belfast Botanic Garden.

Mr. Thompson also, in conjunction with Dr. Falconer, made some observations on the crania of two crocodiles from Sierra Leone. The *Crocodilus cataphractus*, Cuv. and *C. vulgaris*, Cuv. (var. *C. Dumeril* and *Bibron*), were the species noticed; the cranium of the former, divested of its integuments, being now for the first time described. The differences between the cranium of the latter

* The authority for this is M. Ch. Martins, in an article published in the *Annales des Sciences Naturelles* for April 1846.

and that of allied species were noticed in detail in the paper, which was illustrated by figures of the crania of the two forms from Sierra Leone, whence the specimens were brought by Dr. M'Comac of Belfast, and presented by him to the museum of that town.

On Friday Professor Allman read a paper "On an undescribed alga allied to *Coleochaete scutata*," which contained a description of an alga discovered in certain subalpine streams in Ireland. It presents the appearance of small perceptibly elevated discs, of a dark green colour, and firm, almost cartilaginous, consistence; varying in size from about half a line to three lines in diameter, and attached to the upper surface of stones in the most rapid part of the current. When several discs grow upon the same stone, they often become confluent, and form patches of indefinite figure and extent. An ordinary lens shews each plant to be furnished with a lobed margin; and when examined under a higher power, the structure is found to consist of numerous disc-shaped laminae, placed one over the other with an imbricated arrangement, the margin of each projecting beyond that of the superposed lamina. The lowest lamina is always the youngest, and each consists of many dichotomously branched series of nucleated cells, which radiate from a common centre and are united at their edges into a continuous frond. In no specimens, though examined at different seasons and in various stages of development, could the sheathed setae of *coleochaete* be detected. From *Coleochaete scutata*, therefore, the present plant differs in its lobed outline, in its imbricated structure, in its cartilaginous consistence, in its large size, in the absence of setae, and in its habitat.

The same gentleman on Monday read a paper on the structure of *Cristatella mucedo*. In this beautiful little bryozoan, added to the Irish fauna by Prof. Allman, several interesting peculiarities of structure were detailed. Of these the author considered one of the most important to be the detection of a small roundish body situated at the upper end of the pharynx, and which he maintained to be a nervous ganglion. He also alluded to the existence of a delicate calyciform membrane which unites the bases of the tentacula, and is of very general occurrence among the freshwater bryozoa. This structure he considered peculiarly interesting, as it tended, with other facts, to homologue the tentacular system of the bryozoa with the bronchial sack of the true ascidiae. Several peculiarities in the digestive and muscular systems were detailed, the muscular fibre being shewn to be obscurely striated, and to exhibit a tendency to break itself into discs. The ova in their young state are enclosed in a ciliated membrane; and the hooked spines with which in their more mature condition they are furnished are developed within the ciliated investment, being of subsequent growth, but yet fully formed previously to the ova leaving the parent. The facts detailed in the present communication were assumed by the author to afford much additional evidence in favour of the molluscan nature of the bryozoa.

And on Wednesday a paper was read by the same experienced Professor, on certain peculiarities in the anatomy of *Limax Sowerbii*. The peculiarities of structure in this animal are chiefly to be found in the reproductive system, which in several respects presents a remarkable similarity to that of *Helix*. There are well-developed *multifid vesicles*, and an elongated sack containing a most singular organ, in the form of a curved cylinder beset with numerous palmate spines. This sack, as well as the multifid vesicles, of which there are four sets, opens into the common sack of generation.

Mr. Reeve made some interesting remarks on the physiological condition of the highest forms of molluscs, for the purpose of shewing the subordinate character of the shell as compared with the other parts of their structure. He demonstrated that of the four shell-secreting kinds of Cephalo-

pods—the Cuttle-fish, the Paper Nautilus, the Pearly Nautilus, and the Spirule or Ram's horn—each exhibited a different method of forming its shell, differing in microscopic structure, and secreted from different parts of the system, although strictly allied in all those elements of anatomical detail which constitute the soft parts or animal frame; shewing also that whilst the calcareous portion of the Cuttle-fish was merely represented by an internal bony plate, consisting mainly of carbonate of lime, the shell of the Pearly Nautilus constituted a huge mechanical apparatus, secreted from the mantle enveloping the visceral mass, and consisting of two separate deposits, an outer crust and an inner nacre, for the purpose of buoying up its inhabitant under the different mutations of pressure to which it is subjected in its deep region of habitation. The shell of the Paper Nautilus, on the other hand, is a light elastic boat, transparent and permeable to light, secreted only by the female for the purpose of containing her eggs; and that in this animal the office of calcification is transferred by some mysterious order from the mantle to the hinder pair of arms. The Spirule is again totally different, it being contained within the mantle of an animal far larger in proportion than that of the other Cephalopods, under circumstances which at present remain unknown. The drawing exhibited was taken from a living specimen recently collected at New Zealand, for the first time in perfect condition; but as the proprietor is unwilling that it should be dissected, Mr. Reeve could only state that it contained a problem in the physiological history of the Cephalopods which he was extremely desirous to solve. The next point to which he directed the attention of the Section was the curious difference which takes place in the growth of the Cowrey and the Olive, and which he had more fully communicated to the Linnean Society. When the Cowrey arrived at a certain period of its existence, the mantle divided into two lobes, which, passing out of the aperture of the shell on either side, deposited the testaceous matter from the outside; but the Olive, which produces a shell of almost similar appearance and external polish, completed its growth by the gradual addition of matter at the lip, secreted by the mantle, which has no farther influence over the shell after it has once receded in its course of revolution, and is held in a state of tension by a filament or cord passing from its posterior extremity into a narrow groove round the spire of the shell. Other peculiarities were also demonstrated in the colours and design of the different layers of enamel. The author next directed his remarks to the Chiton, Patella, Dolium, Glassy Nautilus, Firoles, and other molluscs, the whole of which were illustrated by a series of beautifully executed drawings on an enlarged scale, each as in a living condition, with its shell *in situ*. Mr. Reeve concluded his observations by hoping that, as the results of his inquiries were in course of publication elsewhere, we should soon see our amateur conchologists collecting their specimens with a more philosophic spirit of inquiry into the nature and habits of those animals of which they merely constituted a subordinate portion. Whilst the geologist might content himself to a certain extent with the shells, as serving to identify that abundant issue of imperishable medals by which he is enabled to calculate the age and convulsions of the crust of our globe, the zoologist must be satisfied with nothing short of a complete physiological analysis of the mysterious animals from which they are derived.

Mr. Peach read a paper on the marine zoology of Cornwall. He commenced with some observations on the zoophytes new to the Cornish fauna, and also one new to the British fauna. He also described several microscopic aculeapha, or "jelly-fish," which had appeared in great abundance in Fowey harbour, and remarked that the state of the atmosphere had a great deal to do with their luminosity; for when there is a small thick rain, with warm weather, the light given out is in broad

flashes, whereas in dry weather it is not so broad or deep-coloured. He had remarked the same with the glow-worm. He also introduced several splendid echini, especially the rare *Echinus Flemingii*, and one which may prove a new species, Prof. Agassiz not being at present able to decide. He also exhibited a young echinus, of the size of a pin's head, the spines of which were covered with scales or short spines, which is not the case when in the adult state. Amongst other things, he had noticed several colides and annelides; also some rare and interesting shells, and entered into their growth, habits, &c. &c.

He also read a paper, by Mr. J. Couch, on the egg-purse and embryo of a species of myliobatis. Early in the month of August 1845, Mr. Peach sent Mr. Couch a purse or case of the ovum of what appeared to be a species of ray-fish, such as he had never seen before, and which he obtained from a trawl vessel that had been fishing a few miles south of Fowey. Mr. Couch stated, that the eminent naturalists who had had an opportunity of examining the curious structure of the surface of this specimen were unable to refer it to any of the known cartilaginous fishes; and he then gave a minute description of the case, and of the embryo which it contained. There could be little question, he remarked, that this fish belonged to the genus myliobatis of Cuvier, which is characterised by having the pectoral expansion separated from the head, and which becomes exerted after the manner of the genus squatina; from the latter, however, the present specimen differs in having the mouth placed far beneath the snout. In the adult state, also, it is marked by a small dorsal fin, and close behind it a lengthened spine situated anteriorly on the caudal elongation. That in an embryotic specimen the dorsal fin should be obscure is not to be wondered at; for in numerous specimens of several species of the common rays that he had obtained from the egg-case, he had constantly found the caudal elongation to differ much from what is seen in the adult fish, and he believed that all of them are at that period destitute of the ordinary spines. After some further remarks on the structure of the fish, Mr. Couch observed, that according to Ruysch the specimen is viviparous, an assertion which was now proved incorrect.

Prof. Forbes said that the specimens Mr. Peach had brought forward were extremely interesting, but at present he was unable to say whether the specimen of echinus was new or not; it must be broken before that could be decided.

ABYSSINIA.

The object of Dr. Beke's memoir on Wednesday was to shew the true character of the high table-land of Abyssinia in which the numerous head-streams of the Nile have their origin.

The opinion expressed by Prof. Ritter in his *Erskunde*, and generally entertained on his authority, with respect to this table-land is, that it consists of a succession of terraces rising one above the other, the lowest being towards the Red Sea, and the highest in Enára, where the line of separation between the waters flowing to the Nile, and those of the rivers having their course to the Indian Ocean, is considered to exist.

Dr. Rüppell was the first to shew that so far from the high land rising in terraces, as it recedes from the coast, its highest line is towards the coast itself, and that it thence falls gradually towards the interior. And this view is entirely corroborated by the two vertical sections of the Abyssinian plateau, from north to south, and from east to west, exhibited by Dr. Beke to the meeting. These sections shew that at Hálai, on the summit of Mount Taránta, 23 geographical miles from the Red Sea at Zúlla (Adulis) near Massówah, the edge of the table-land has an absolute elevation of 8625 feet, which gives a rise of 1 in 16½—equal to an angle of 3° 33' to the eastern slope. On the other hand, at Hhártúm, at the junction of the White and Blue Rivers, in nearly the same latitude

as Hálai, and at a distance of 380 geographical miles from that place, the elevation of the Nile is 1525 feet. The fall in that direction is therefore only 1 in 324, which gives rather more than 10 minutes and a half of a degree as the angle of the western slope towards the interior of the continent. Consequently, on a line along the fifteenth parallel of north latitude, the eastern slope of the Abyssinian mountain-chain towards the sea is to the western counter-slope towards the Nile as 20 to 1. If the proportion of the two slopes, instead of being estimated on a direct east and west line, be calculated on one in the general direction of the courses of the principal rivers, namely from s.e. to n.w., the result is as follows. Hhártúm lies very nearly to the northwest of Mélika-Kúyu, the ford over the Hawásh on the way from Tadjórah to Shoa, at which spot the absolute elevation of that river is about 2200 feet. The height of the eastern edge of the table-land on the summit of the Chákka mountains behind Ankóbar, the capital of Shoa, not far from the direct line between the two extreme points, is about 9000 feet; and as this locality is 38 geographical miles from Mélika-Kúyu, it gives a rise of 1 in 38·83 to the eastern slope, equal to an angle of 1° 41'. On the other hand, the distance from the summit of the Chákka to Hhártúm being about 530 miles, the fall of the counter-slope is 1 in 429, equal to an angle of 8'. These calculations make, therefore, the proportion of the two slopes to be as 12·6 to 1. In this latter instance the eastern slope is taken, not from the level of the ocean, but from that of the Hawásh, which river is here the recipient of the waters of that slope, in the same way as the Nile itself is that of those of the western counter-slope. From the Hawásh to the sea is about 200 miles, which gives a fall of 1 in 550, equal to an angle of 6½ minutes of a degree, for the low desert country inhabited by the Beduin Dankáli tribes.

As a whole, the table-land of Abyssinia may be described as a succession of extensive undulating plains, declining very gradually towards the west and north-west, and being intersected by numerous streams, which streams, after a short course on the level of the plateau, fall abruptly into deep-cut valleys of considerable width; that of the Abai, to the south of the peninsula of Gódjá, is at least 25 miles from the extreme points where it breaks from the table-land on either side. As the country within the valleys is exceedingly wild and irregular, with all the characters of a mountainous one, it is easy for a traveller who has not first taken a comprehensive view of the entire table-land, and who, on crossing a river, finds himself shut up within a mass of broken country, rising around him on all sides to a relative elevation of three or four thousand feet, or even more, to suppose that, in ascending this broken country on either side, he is crossing a mountain-chain; whereas, on reaching the summit, he has merely arrived upon the table-land. It is important to bear this in mind in the perusal of the works of travellers in Abyssinia, many of whom, under the impression thus alluded to, place mountains where mountains, in the ordinary acceptation of the term, do not exist.

Where the rivers begin to break from the table-land, which they do by fissures in the rocky surface, at first only a few yards in breadth, but gradually opening to the extent of several miles, they at once form cataracts of 80 or 100 feet, or even more, in height, and then continue down a succession of falls and rapids, so as to descend several thousand feet in a course of a few miles. For example, the Abai, in a distance of only 25 miles between the two bridges over it in the north-east of Gódjá, falls 2000 feet, or 80 feet per mile; and in the next 80 miles of its course it falls nearly 1000 feet more. So too, in a distance of 100 miles between Angóllá, the Galla capital of Shoa, and the ford of the Derra Gallas, on the way to Gódjá, the difference of elevation between the head-streams of the Jámma, a principal tributary of the

Abai, and the Abai itself is 2936 feet, which gives a fall of 56 feet per mile.

The uniformity of the surface of the table-land is further broken by higher mountain masses, which in some parts, as in Sâmien, Angot, Gôdjâ, Mîschâ, Kaffâ, &c. attain an absolute elevation of from 11,000 to 15,000 feet. These greater elevations do not, however, appear to form parts of any regular system, but to be distinct isolated masses, unconnected either with each other or with the general bearing of the entire plateau.

A remarkable peculiarity of this table-land is, that many of its principal rivers have a spiral course; so that, after having formed a curve of greater or less extent, mostly, as would appear, around these higher mountain masses, they return upon themselves at a comparatively short distance from their sources. As instances are mentioned the Mâreb, the Bêllegas, the Gibbi, and the God-jib. This latter river, of which the first accounts were given by Dr. Beke, is not the head of the Jub or Gowind, as has been imagined, but one of the principal arms of the Bahr-el-Abiadh, or true Nile.

All the streams of the western counter-slope of the Abyssinian chain are affluents of the Nile, and their easternmost branches take their rise on the extreme eastern edge of the table-land, which is thus the limit of the basin of the Nile, and the watershed between its affluents and those of the rivers flowing westward and southward towards the Indian Ocean. On the seaward side of this watershed, the declivity being much more abrupt and its extent much more limited, the river must necessarily be of secondary importance. Of these the Hawâsh, the Haines's River, and the Jub or Gowind are mentioned as instances; and the author adds, that to the south of the equator the watershed continues along southward at a comparatively short distance from the eastern coast; so that, when once the southern limits of the basin of the Nile are passed,—wherever those limits may be found to be,—the far greater mass of the immense tropical rains find their way to the ocean by the rivers discharging themselves into it on the western coast.

This memoir concludes with directing attention to an important practical result which is to be arrived at from this brief survey of the physical character of the Abyssinian plateau. It is, namely, that the eastern coast of Africa presents facilities for the exploration of the interior of that continent very far superior to those offered by the western coast. For when the narrow belt of low land along the coast of the Indian Ocean, which, from its general dryness, is far from unhealthy, is once passed, and the eastern edge of the elevated table-land is attained, a climate is met with which is not merely congenial to European constitutions, but is absolutely more healthy than that of most countries. Stationed here, our travellers might wait in safety, and even with advantage to their health, until the proper season should arrive, and suitable opportunities should present themselves for penetrating westward into the interior; and in the event of their having to retrace their steps, they would only return upon a healthy and delightful country. On the other hand, the climate of the western coast is notoriously such, that a traveller is necessitated to press forward, whatever may be the time of the year, whatever the condition of the country, whatever, even, his state of health. And should he from sickness or any other unforeseen circumstance, be compelled to abandon his journey and return backwards, he must do so with the painful knowledge that the further he retrogrades the more baleful are the districts which he has to traverse, and the less likelihood there is of his ever reaching the coast.

SATURDAY.

SECTION A.—(Mathematical and Physical Science.)

1. Birt (W. R.), report on atmospheric waves.
2. Ellis (E. L.), report on the recent progress of analysis.
3. Powell (Prof.), on the attempt to explain the projection of a star on the moon.

4. Shortrede (Capt.) on the elastic force of vapour.
5. Young (Prof.) on the principle of continuity in reference to certain results of analysis.

Mr. Birt's third report (the former two published in the *Transactions* of the Association) leads to a belief that we are beginning to unravel meteorological phenomena. The point dwelt upon by Mr. Birt in his brief verbal abstract to the Section was the recurrence of the great Symmetrical Barometric Wave, the maximum of the curve passing London in November. Since the last report, observations have been received from thirty stations, evidencing the return of the great wave, and exhibiting all its features between the 7th and 21st November—the wave culminating on the 14th. For four years there has been only one departure, and that a slight one, from symmetry; this was in 1844, and probably due to the earlier appearance of the wave. The times of culminating in the four years are as follow:

1842—Nov. 18.	1844—Oct. 27.
1843—Nov. 14.	1845—Nov. 14.

The above dates result from the records obtained under the superintendence of Mr. Birt; but in observations from 1829 to 1843, which he has examined, he has traced twelve instances of the recurrence of the great wave, and in eleven of them the epoch of the maxima is confined to five days about the middle of November. The essential features of the great wave, and the results likely to be drawn from them, were touched upon by Mr. Birt; their bearing, however, on the grand question of meteorology can only be appreciated by readers of the report itself in the volume for 1846. A discussion ensued on the mode of measuring the heights of clouds.

SECTION F.—(Statistics.)

1. Wigglesworth (Mr.) on the mortality of children.
2. Howard (Mr.), the contrast between plate-glass making in 1846 and 1847.
3. Sykes (Col.), statistics of the civil and criminal justice of India.
4. Laycock (Dr.), report of the committee on York statistics.

Of these, No. 3 may call for some separate notice hereafter, in conjunction with the Indian inquiries for which we are indebted to the continued diligence of Col. Sykes; at present we press to the rest of the Sabbath, which was not interfered with by late promenading at the *conversazione* of the evening, the only one of the week, and hardly attended by sixty or eighty visitors, the late return to port of the Expeditionists, fatigued with the enjoyments of the day (which they universally agreed ought to be marked with a white stone), sending the majority to sleep at very reasonable hours.

MONDAY.

The Sectional proceedings were somewhat varied by the visit of Prince Albert, who briefly inspected them in succession during the two hours and a half of his stay in Southampton.

SECTION A.—(Mathematical and Physical Science.)

1. Phillips (Prof.), report on anemometry.
2. Sykes (Col.) on the fall of rain on the coast of Travancore.
3. Brooke (C.) on a new self-registering barometer, thermometer, and psychrometer.
4. Miller (J. F.) on the fall of rain in the Cumberland Lake district.
5. Lee (Dr.) on meteorological observations made at Alten in Finmark—5, on the aurora at Alten in Finmark, and Christiania in Norway.
7. Rankin (T.), account of a halo, paraselene, and remarkable aurora borealis.
8. Dollond (G.) on an atmospheric recorder.
9. Childers (W. W.) on the meteorology of Jersey.

A detailed report of the above papers would be of little or no interest without tables, diagrams, collated curves, &c. We have classified Mr. Brooke's and Mr. Dollond's with Mr. Ronalds' communication on Wednesday, in order to present the progress of self-registering instruments; a point essential to the advancement of meteorological science, and occupying the thoughts of numerous observers. The only other communications calling for special though brief notice are those of Prof. Phillips, Col. Sykes, and Mr. Miller. And the first more for its

sequel than for itself, although containing a correction for Whewell's anemometer, which the inventor pronounced good. The concluding remarks of Prof. Phillips had reference to the employment of evaporation to ascertain the velocity of the wind, and which instrument he called an anemoscope; as yet, however, it is only in its infancy—the result of a mode of experiment, but one which had yielded Prof. Phillips much pleasure. The experiment was noting and timing the decrease of temperature by the drying of a wetted cloth covering a thermometer, and obtaining an unit, as it were, of evaporating force. In a room, over a table, this initial was about 28 seconds per degree; but in the open air, or by augmenting the velocity, the rate of cooling varied in a constant ratio. Prof. Phillips tested this fact in the railway-carriage; and, holding the instrument two feet from the carriage, obtained a rate of 36 miles. Bringing it nearer, the rate diminished; and closer still, the air was almost at rest: the train carrying its atmosphere with it. Doubtless at Oxford, in June next, we shall hear more of the anemoscope.

Col. Sykes' paper was an interesting and valuable contribution to the physical records of Western India. The observations were made at five stations, including Cape Comorin, Travancore, and Trevandrum, and presented numerous and singular anomalies. One curious fact we may notice—namely, that at Cape Comorin, although exposed to both monsoons, one-fifth less rain falls than at either of the other stations.

Mr. Miller's paper was read by Prof. Stevelly; at least the *dry* facts, but not the remarks of the author, were given to the Section. One of these was, that on the 27th of November (1845, we believe), 10 inches of rain fell in the lake district in one day. Heavier floods ensued than had been known for sixty years, and there was a perpendicular rise of 2 feet in the lakes. The paper contained tables and particulars of relative falls of rain at different "locuses."

SECTION B.—(Chemical Science, including its application to Agriculture and the Arts.)

1. Forchhammer (Prof.) on comparative analytical researches on sea-water.
2. Gersted (Prof. H. C.) on the changes which mercury sometimes suffers in glass vessels hermetically sealed.
3. Rose (Prof. H.) on a second new metal (pelopium) in the tantalite of Bavaria.
4. Leeson (Dr.) on crystallography and a new goniometer, illustrated by apparatus and models.
5. Connell (Prof.), analysis of the American nemalite.
6. Daubeny (Dr.) on Cavendish's experiment respecting the production of nitric acid.
7. Percy (Dr.) and Miller (Prof.), report on crystalline slags.
8. Gassiot (J. P.) on the electricity of tension in the voltaic battery.

1. Read by Mr. Hunt, gave comparative analyses of the proportions of salt in the Mediterranean, Atlantic, German Ocean, and Arctic Sea, and deduced, as general propositions from them, that the quantity of salt decreased towards the pole, and also near the shores. In a conversation with Prof. Grove, in the chair, Dr. Daubeny, and others, it was elicited that a proportion of sulphuric acid, chlorine, and lime, was found in the Atlantic, and that the presence of ammonia in sea-water was attributed to living animal substances, and not to the fall of rain.

2. The progress of these changes is so exceedingly slow, that it seldom becomes sensible for years. He had observed them twenty years ago in a glass bulb of mercury. At first a yellow powder was formed in the bulb, and after some years a black one. He took up the subject in 1838, experimenting with four bulbs, two of white and two of green glass, carefully weighed, in order to detect any portion of air that may be admitted through the pores or fissures of the glass. The weight, however, remained unaltered. In July 1839, a small change was visible. At first a feeble ring of yellow powder adhering to the glass was observed, where the mercury had been a long time in contact with the glass. And again in a new place, under similar circumstances, a new ring was formed,

VARIETIES.

Drury Lane Theatre is announced to open on Saturday next, with an operatic and ballet corps. *Madame Anna Bishop* is among the former, and *Henry Lind* is mentioned equivocally. Three new operas, by Lavenue, Balfe, and Wallace, are promised; and Meyerbeer's *Camp of Silesia* is still in the programme as a hope.

Haymarket Theatre.—Next Thursday the Haymarket, thoroughly redecored during the recess, is to recommence its career with comedy and farce.

The Wellington Statue.—Surely there never was such a people for fine taste in the fine arts as the English. The criticisms (?) which fill the newspapers on the subject of the Wellington Statue, about to be raised on the arch at Hyde Park Corner, demonstrate that there is not one rule of art, one principle of proportion, one effect of position, one element of propriety, one case of precedent, which is not about to be violated by this monstrous measure! It is not the first time that either parties or the press have tried hard to keep or pull the Duke down; but F. M. has got up wonderfully well, and to the admiration of the whole world, notwithstanding.

Christ's Hospital.—On St. Matthew's day the Lord Mayor paid his annual visit to this seat of education, having previously conducted the Princess of Prussia over Guildhall and the Mansion House, who, with his lordship, heard the speeches in English, French, Latin, and Greek. The four leading orations were delivered as follow: in Latin, on the benefits of the Royal Hospitals.—Malcolm Laing, first Grecian, who is proceeding to Trinity College, Cambridge. In English.—T. Stedman Polehampton, second Grecian, who is proceeding to Pembroke College, Oxford, as Thompson scholar. In Greek.—T. Johnson Potter, third Grecian, mathematical medallist, 1845, and Pitt scholar, who is proceeding to Trinity College, Cambridge. In French, and all on the same subject.—Edward Algernon Newton, fourth Grecian, who is proceeding to St. John's College, Cambridge. Eight other speeches having been well recited, and the whole much to the credit of Dr. Rice and the school, the "glove" was sent round, when a goodly sum was collected for the young gentlemen proceeding to college. The Lord Mayor, before leaving the chair, in a few brief and appropriate sentences expressed his utmost satisfaction with all he had heard and witnessed.

In the Isle of Wight Geological Expedition, on Saturday, in passing Dunnoose, Sir J. Herschel was called upon to account for a remarkable deviation in the plumb-line in the immediate vicinity of the Trigonometrical Station there. He said he had been long aware of the difference between this point and Greenwich, but it was a new fact that such an excess should be observable in so short a distance, the reverse, too, in its amplitude from that to Greenwich. The spheroidal form of the earth would not afford sufficient reasons to account for this, and they must be sought for in the presumption of some superior densities which would attract the line from the true perpendicular, such as might exist in large nodules of metallic substances or masses of plutonic formation.

Manchester Soirée.—The Manchester annual *soirée* next month, with Lord Morpeth in the chair, boasts of an attractive platform assemblage, whose names and eloquence will no doubt crowd the spacious rooms, and bring fruitful contributions to encourage the worthy ambitious literature of this populous place.

Banim's Widow.—The Irish newspapers inform us that Lord John Russell has, voluntarily and without solicitation, considerably placed poor Banim's widow on the pension-list for 50*l.* per annum. This kind act, friendly to literature, is the second which his lordship has been enabled to perform during his short possession of power—a provision in the customs for the only son of the "Old Sailor," Mr. Barker, was his first step in a line which is

always so popular and acceptable to the nation at large.

Anecdote of Schönbein's Gun-Cotton.—When Mr. S. attended at Osborne House to exhibit the qualities of his gun-cotton to Prince Albert, he offered to explode a portion on the hand of Col. B—; but the gallant Colonel recoiled from the experiment, and would have nothing to do with the novel power. Prince Albert himself, however, submitted to the test; and off went the cotton, without smoke, stain, or burning of the skin. Thus encouraged, the Colonel took his turn; but whether the material was changed or not for the coarser preparation, it gave him such a singeing that he leapt up with a cry of pain. A hearty laugh was all the commiseration he received. After this, Mr. S. loaded a fowling-piece with cotton in the place of powder, and the Prince fired both ball and shot from it with the usual effect and perfect impunity.

New Volcano.—A letter, dated Aug. 14th, from Lieut. Barker, of the East India Company's steamer *Victoria*, states that on that day smoke was observed to issue from the summit of Saddle Island, lat. 15° 7' N., long. 42° 12' E. The account adds: "The weather at the time was very squally, with thunder and lightning. Saddle Island is one of a group called Zebayer Islands in the Red Sea, in the direct track of vessels proceeding up and down, and are all of volcanic origin; but there is neither record nor tradition of their having been in active operation. Jibble Seer, in lat. 15° 32' N., and long. 41° 55' E., was observed to be smoking when visited by the officers of the *Benares* during the survey of the Red Sea, but never since. There is a tradition among the Arab pilots of its having been on fire some fifty years ago, and it bears among many of them the name of Jibble Dookhan, or Hill of Smoke, and has the appearance of having been in active operation at a much later period than the Zebayer Islands."

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

A School Grammar of the Latin Language, by C. G. Zumpt, translated by L. Schmitz, Ph. D., 12mo, 4*s.*—An Abridgment of Hilkey's English Grammar, with Questions and Exercises, 5th edit. 18mo, 1*s.* 6*d.*—Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland at Winchester, Sept. 1845, 8vo, 2*s.*—Dick's (T.) Christian Philosophy, 3 vols. fcp. 4*s.*; sewed, 3*s.*—Fairy Birds from Fairy Islet, sq. 8vo, 5*s.*—Roscoe's Battles of England, royal 8vo, 4*s.*—Sir Fizzle Pumpkin's Nights at Mesa, &c., new edit. 3*s.*; sewed, 2*s.* 6*d.*—Valerius, new edit. 3*s.*; sewed, 2*s.* 6*d.*—Christ the Man of Sorrows, by Rev. T. B. Baker, 12mo, 5*s.* 6*d.*—Brasseur's Selections from Chesterfield's Letters, for Translation into French, 3*s.* 6*d.*—Mary Anne Wellington, by Rev. R. Cobbold, 3 v. post 8vo, 1*l.* 1*l.* 6*d.*—Simla, by Captain Thomas, folio, plain, 4*s.*; coloured, 8*s.*—Ecclesiastes; or, the Preacher, illustrated by S. E. Gordon, royal 4to, 1*l.* 1*l.* 6*d.*—Abbotsford Waverley: Fair Maid of Perth, roy. 8vo, 1*l.* 1*l.*—Ditto: Anne Gelestein, royal 8vo, 1*l.* 1*l.*—Sherwood's Indian Pilgrim, new edit. 12mo, 3*s.* 6*d.*—Switzerland and the Swiss Churches, by W. L. Alexander, D.D., 5*s.*—Bethany; or, Christian Experience unfolded, by G. A. Barnes, 12mo, 5*s.*—The Lake, and other Poems, fcp. 8vo, 5*s.*—Annual Festivals, &c., by Rev. J. B. Lowe, fcp. 2*s.* 6*d.*—Model-Lessons for Infant-Schools, Part I. 3d edit. fcp. 3*s.*—Cabinet Lawyer, royal 18mo, 1*l.* 6*d.*—Point Lace Crochet Collar-Book, by Mrs. Warren, sq. 32mo, 6*d.*—Memoirs of James Farnell, 18mo, 1*s.* 6*d.*—Nemesis in China, by Capt. Hall, 3d edit. post 8vo, 1*l.* 1*l.*—Sharpe's London Magazine, Vol. II., 4*s.* 6*d.*

DENT'S TABLE FOR THE EQUATION OF TIME.

(This table shows the time which a clock or watch should indicate when the sun is on the meridian.)

1846.	h. m. s.	1846.	h. m. s.
Sept. 26 . . .	11 51 23.6	Sept. 30 . . .	11 50 4.1
27 . . .	51 3.5	Oct. 1 . . .	49 44.8
28 . . .	50 43.5	2 . . .	49 23.8
29 . . .	50 23.7		

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No payment could obtain the notice of any thing in the *Literary Gazette*, except advertisements. We cannot meddle with the pamphlet proposing the excision of the Athanasian creed, and other reforms in the liturgy. The subject is one of a class which we have ever sedulously avoided, lest it should truly be said of us,

"And fools leap in where angels fear to tread."

ERRATUM.—In our last No., p. 808, the last line but one of col. 3, for incompetence read incompleteness.

erected of a nearly square rectilinear iron tube, dividing the top and bottom into double rows of square cells, and supporting itself across the distance from pier to pier without puckering up as the circular tube did, without being liable to obstructive curvature by the engine, as the chain-bridge was, and leaving the navigation free to vessels below. He mentioned the severe tests to which the metal in models had been put, and stated that the Menai bridge was calculated to sustain a weight of 2,260 tons, or four times the amount that could ever be placed upon it. Much discussion ensued upon mechanical points connected with this great and novel undertaking, but strong approval and admiration were the almost unanimous result.

4. Mr. Scott Russell described some recent experiments on railway trains, to determine the resistance at high velocities; the deductions from which differed considerably from previous theories, as the annexed table will show:

Velocity in miles per hour.	Resistance by experiment in lbs. per ton.	Resistance by formula in lbs. per ton.
18-97 71-56	8.0	8.7
19-01 72-62	19.6	13.9
21-82 74-78	23.3	15.7
22-20 75-95	26.5	25.4
23-23 77-62	29.5	22.7
24-21 78-62	32.5	22.7
25-15 79-10	35	17.3
26-42 79-44	38	22.4
27-11 79-82	41	22.5
Average.	17.5	18.2
73-56	30.0	31.6
74-04	29.9	19.6
74-00	21.7	21.0
72-95	23.1	23.3
72-78	33.7	33.1
72-62	32.9	36.3
72-32	26.4	23.0
72-10	41.7	42.1
71-69	52.6	54.8

Subsection of Ethnology.

1. Jukes (J. B.) on the aborigines of Newfoundland;—
2. varieties of the human race in the neighbourhood of Torres Straits.
3. Latham (Dr. R. G.), remarks on a Newfoundland vocabulary.
4. Davies (H. B.) on the Tasmanians.
5. Von Middendorf (Prof.), ethnological notes on Siberia.
6. Brien (Capt.) on the Africans of the neighbourhood of Bonny.
7. Freeman (Rev. T.) on the inhabitants of Prince's Island.
8. Retzius (Prof.) on the ethnological distribution of fossil and elongated crania.

It was endeavoured to prove that the aborigines of Newfoundland were allied to the Indian and not the Esquimaux race; and other points mooted led to great diversity of opinions, upon which Dr. Latham's deep and comprehensive investigations enable him, whether *pro* or *con*, to throw considerable light.

Of Mr. Lyell's evening lecture, as of Mr. Owen's on Friday, we have a correct report in type for next *Lit. Gaz.*; and so close the Monday's proceedings, leaving (potatoes included!) very little else to wind up the year.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

PICKLENESS.

"What wouldst thou do were she to frown,
If thus her smile so much can grieve thee?"

A lady's smile? 'tis hard to find
A rule, from love or hate, to guide it;
Some ladies smile to shew their mind,
And other ladies smile to hide it!
And few can say which is the way
To judge a lady, gay or placid;
A smile may prove as sweet as love,
Or sour as pyrologuous acid!

Twere best with patience to confer,
Till love can bring thee brighter weather;
But where is love's barometer
To shew her mood an hour together?
More fickle far than any star,
Each tone, each feeling, hath its season:
The glances bright she loves to night,
To-morrow may be worse than treason.

You ne'er can know which way to go,
To fix a lady's heart a minute;
One hour 'tis shewn as all your own,
The next she vows there's "nothing in it."
Before I'd be chained to her knee,
Slave to each smile her mood discovers,
I'd see her—shot; but I'd forgot,
There's really no advising lovers!

C. S.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

PATENT WATCHES AND CLOCKS.

MR. J. DENT respectfully solicits from the Public an inspection of his extensive stock of WATCHES, which has been greatly increased to meet the demand at this season of the Year. Youth's Silver Watches, 4 Guineas each; excellent Silver Lever Watches, at 6 Guineas each; Lady's Gold Watches, 6 Guineas each. Dent's manufacture is guaranteed to him by three separate Patents, granted in 1836, 1840, and 1842.

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GEOLOGICAL TRANSACTIONS.

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TO VISITORS TO THE CONTINENT.

Messrs. J. and R. McCracken, Foreign Agents, and Agents to the Royal Academy, No. 7 Old Jewry, beg to remind the Nobility and Gentry that they continue to receive and forward to the Continent, by the most direct route, all parts of the Continent, for clearing through the Custom-House, &c.; and that they undertake the shipment of Effects to all parts of the world.

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Fire Policies due at Michaelmas must be paid on or before the 14th of October.
By order of the Board,
JOHN CHARLES DENHAM, Secretary.
London, September, 1846.

AT the request of several of his influential friends, Mr. BROSTER has returned to reside in London during the Winter Months, restoring in the Spring to his usual residence at Northwood Cottage, Cotes; purposing, in these intervals, to practice his Peculiar and Approved system for IMPROVING the ORGAN OF SPEECH, in cases of Impediment, Indistinct Enunciation, or of Exhaustion of the Voice, produced by over-exertion in the discharge of Clerical Duties, or other public functions.

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LITERATURE AND ART.

BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL

ASSOCIATION.—Some of the Members of the British Archeological Association intending to make an EXCURSION to COLCHESTER, to visit the Antiquities of that Town, hereby request such of their fellow-members who wish to attend, to send their names either to Mr. CHARLES BARTY, No. 78 Gracechurch Street, or to Mr. ALFRED WATTS, No. 15 Cloudsley Square, Islington, Secretaries for the occasion. The Meeting to take place on Monday, October 13th, at 11 o'clock A.M., and to terminate on the following day.

Particulars of the arrangements will be sent to such members as signify their intention of attending.
Sept. 24th, 1846.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL and

MEDICAL COLLEGE.—The WINTER SESSION will commence on THURSDAY, October 1st, 1846, with an Introductory Address by Mr. Paget, at seven o'clock A.M.

LECTURES.

Medicine.—G. Burrows, M.D.
Surgery.—William Lawrence, F.R.S.
Descriptive Anatomy.—F. C. Skye, F.R.S.
Physiology and Morbid Anatomy.—Mr. Paget.
Superintendence of Dissections.—Mr. McWhinnie and Mr. Holden.

Chemistry.—Mr. Griffiths.
Materia Medica.—G. L. Roupell, M.D., F.R.S.
Midwifery, &c.—E. Rigby, M.D., F.L.S.

SUMMER SESSION, 1847, commencing May 1st.

Biology.—F. J. Farre, M.D., F.L.S.
Forensic Medicine.—W. Baly, M.D., F.L.S.
Midwifery, &c.—E. Rigby, M.D., F.L.S.
Comparative Anatomy.—Mr. McWhinnie.

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COLLEGIATE ESTABLISHMENT.—Warden, Mr. Paget.—Students can reside within the Hospital-walls, subject to the rules of the collegiate system, established under the direction of the Treasurer and a Committee of the Governors of the Hospital. Some of the teachers and other gentlemen connected with the Hospital also receive students to reside with them.

SCHOLARSHIPS, PRIZES, &c.—At the end of the Winter Session the Annual Examination will be held for a Scholarship, of the value of £25 a year, and tenable for three years. The Examination for the Wix, Bentley, and Collegiate Prizes, and those of all the Classes for Prizes and Certificates of Merit, will take place at the same time.

Further information may be obtained from any of the Medical or Surgical Officers or Lecturers on application at the Anatomical Museum, or the Library of the College.

MINERALOGY.—Mr. J. TENNANT, F.G.S.,

will commence a COURSE of LECTURES on MINERALOGY, with a view to facilitate the study of Geology, and of the application of Mineral Substances in the Arts.

The Lectures will be illustrated by an extensive Collection of Specimens, and will begin on WEDNESDAY MORNING, October 7th, at 9 o'clock. They will be continued on each succeeding Wednesday.

Further particulars may be obtained at the Secretary's Office.
R. W. JELF, Principal.
King's College, London, September 25, 1846.

BOOKS IN THE PRESS.

EDINBURGH REVIEW, No. CLXX.—

ADVERTISEMENTS for insertion in No. 170 of "The Edinburgh Review" are requested to be sent to the Publishers' by Tuesday, the 29th inst.; and BILLS on or before Friday, October the 2d.

39 Paternoster Row,
Sept. 26, 1846.

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HYDROPATHY, HOMOEOPATHY,

PHRENOLOGY, MESMERISM.—Articles on the above subjects will appear in the October Number of the BRITISH and FOREIGN MEDICAL REVIEW.
Edited by JOHN FORBES, M.D., F.R.S.
London: John Churchill, Princes Street, St. John.

On the 1st of October will be published, price 1s., copiously illustrated by LAMAR, No. IV. of the

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Already published.

1. TALES by the O'HARA FAMILY. Part I. By JOHN BAXTER. Containing "Crochore of the Bill-Hook," and the "Fetters."
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6. CLARENCE: a Tale of Our Own Times. By M. SEDGWICK.
7. TALES by the O'HARA FAMILY. Part II. By JOHN BAXTER. Containing "The Nowlans."

On First of October,

THE DARK LADY OF DOONA. By W. MAXWELL. And JONATHAN FROCK. By H. ZSCHOKKE.
Belfast: Simms and McIntyre. London: W. S. Orr and Co.

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